

STARS AND STRIPES®

Singer wants to show he's more than Ashlee's ex

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Ryan Cabrera



Multitasking is name of game for Anaconda MPs

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ABC apologizes for steamy TV football intro

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Actress Nicolette Sheridan



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2004

Active-duty soldiers joining Guard in fewer numbers

Retention high, but recruiting rate worries Guard commander Page 8

'We've got TV, running water and electricity'

No pools and no fast-food joints, but GIs adore ugly duckling FOB Wilson

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Sgt. Lamar Waring, 24, of the 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery from the North Carolina National Guard, watches a gate at Forward Operating Base Wilson, Iraq, with two weapons ready: his rifle and his fly swatter.

STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes



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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Train safety checks: Federal regulators are increasing safety checks of Union Pacific Railroad in response to five accidents since May that have killed four people and spilled hazardous materials.

Retraining managers who test workers on safety rules and taking other steps to improve safety are part of a compliance agreement between Union Pacific, a unit of Union Pacific Corp., and the Federal Railroad Administration.

The FRA also reassigned federal inspectors from nine other offices to supplement its inspection staff in San Antonio, where the accidents have occurred. Federal regulators stated in the agreement that they continue to find deficiencies in Union Pacific train and engine crew compliance with operating rules.

Christian alliance: U.S. Roman Catholic bishops voted Wednesday to join a new alliance that would be the broadest Christian group ever formed in the United States, linking American evangelicals and Catholics in an ecumenical organization for the first time.

The alliance, called Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A., is set to kick off next year. It also would include mainline Protestants, Orthodox Christians, and black and other minority churches, though with about 67 U.S. million members the Catholic Church would be the largest denomination.

Murdering nurse: The nurse who admitted killing up to 40 patients in New Jersey and Pennsylvania pleaded guilty Wednesday to six murders and three attempted murders.

Charles Cullen appeared in a Lehigh County, Pa., courtroom to enter the plea, which was announced last month.

With his latest admission, Cullen now has pleaded guilty to giving fatal medication overdoses to 23 people and nonlethal overdoses to six others during his 16-year career.

All of Cullen's victims were seriously ill, but not all were expected to die soon when he delivered his poison, prosecutors said.

Serial killer trial: A day after jurors in Pontiac, Mich., began deliberating in a murder trial aimed at keeping a confessed serial killer behind bars, the judge removed one of the jurors and replaced him with an alternate.

Coral Eugene Watts, who has confessed to 13 slayings, is on trial in the December 1979 murder of Helen Dutch-er in the Detroit suburb of Ferndale. If convicted, Watts, 51, faces a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole.

The juror was dismissed for going to the crime scene, said Ronald Kaplovitz, Watts' defense attorney. The judge learned about it because the juror mentioned it to his fellow jurors.

The last remaining alternate, who also is a man, took his place.

Another juror had been excused on Monday.

Big Dig leaks: Leaks in Boston's Big Dig highway tunnel system are more widespread than state officials have acknowledged, and top construction managers had warned as far back as 1998 about problems that could cause failures in tunnel waterproofing, the Boston Globe reported Wednesday.



Specter support: Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Penn., right, puts his arm around Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, as they talk with reporters Tuesday in Washington. Specter picked up fresh support Wednesday in his bid to become Judiciary Committee chairman as he prepared to make his case to Republican senators worried about whether he'll support President Bush's judicial nominees. "I expect him to have the support of the committee," said current chairman Hatch.

Earlier this month, independent engineers hired by the state to investigate a huge September leak in the Interstate 93 tunnel said the \$14.6 billion Big Dig tunnels, which sit almost entirely within the salty water table underlying downtown Boston, were riddled with more than 400 leaks. Project managers and state officials have insisted that the tunnels are safe for motorists.

Now, documents obtained by The Boston Globe show there are nearly 700 leaks in a single 1,000-foot section of the I-93 tunnels beneath the South Station train terminal.

Tobacco lawsuit: The tobacco industry urged a federal appeals court Wednesday to throw out a decision allowing the Justice Department to seek \$280 billion from cigarette-makers for allegedly misleading the public about the dangers of smoking.

The government brought the case, now being heard in U.S. District Court, under a 1970 civil racketeering statute originally designed to prosecute mobsters.

Industry lawyer Michael Carvin told a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit Wednesday that the civil RICO statute doesn't allow the government to recover money in the ongoing lower court case.

World

Kosovo politics: The party that won Kosovo's general elections decided Wednesday to form a coalition with a smaller party led by a former rebel leader, paving the way to form a new government soon, officials said.

Democratic League of Kosovo, the party led by Kosovo's current president Ibrahim Rugova, will form a coalition with the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK), which placed third in Kosovo's general elections held last month, said spokesman Lutizim Zeneli.

Rugova's party got 45 percent of the vote in the last month's general elections but failed to gain the absolute majority to govern alone in this U.N.-run province. The smaller alliance, headed by Ramush Haradinaj, finished third with 8 percent.

A few other smaller parties will also join the coalition, Zeneli said.

German official extradition: A Paris appeals court ruled Wednesday that a German former defense official accused in his home-

land of accepting bribes can be extradited to Germany.

Holger Pfahls, arrested July 13 in Paris on an international warrant after a five-year search, can still appeal the ruling.

Pfahls' lawyer had argued that too much time has passed for him to be extradited for acts he allegedly committed as long ago as 1991. Pfahls had said in court that he does not want to be extradited.

N. Korea negotiations: The head of South Korea's ruling party said Wednesday he doesn't expect the second-term administration of President Bush to take a tougher line against rival North Korea.

Lee Bu-young, chairman of the Uri Party, made the remark a day after the appointment of Condoleezza Rice as the new U.S. Secretary of State.

"It is not necessary to conclude that the second term of the Bush administration will take a hard line on the Korean Peninsula," he said at a lunch hosted by the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club.

He noted that participants in the six-party negotiation process in Beijing were making efforts to persuade North Korea to return to the talks.

N. Korea food aid: Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Wednesday that Japan will deliver food aid to North Korea despite its dissatisfaction with talks last week on the fate of Japanese citizens kidnapped by the communist state decades ago.

North Korea has acknowledged it abducted 13 Japanese in the 1970s and 1980s to teach its spies Japanese language and culture.

Business

Enron scandal: Federal officials are investigating a \$1.3 million stock sale called for by the wife of former Enron Chairman Kenneth Lay just days before the energy company went under, the couple's lawyer says.

Attorney Mike Ramsey, in Wednesday's editions of the Houston Chronicle, described the probe of Linda Lay for possible insider trading as "a low and dirty blow." Ramsey said Linda Lay requested that their family foundation sell 500,000 Enron shares to pay charitable obligations.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

U.S. convoy rammed by bomber, 10 killed

Three soldiers hurt in Beiji blast; man reports policemen kidnapped

BY KATARINA KRATOVAC

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide attacker drove his bomb-laden car into a U.S. convoy during fighting Wednesday in a northern town, where hospital officials said at least 10 Iraqi were killed and a wave of violence across Iraq's Sunni Arab heartland.

The increasing attacks and the U.S. military's offensive to retake the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah have made November one of Iraq's bloodiest months.

According to an Associated Press tally, the American death toll in the war in Iraq surpassed 1,200 with new Defense Department identifications Tuesday night and Wednesday. The total of 1,208 deaths included 1,204 identified members of the U.S. military, three military civilians and one unidentified soldier reported to have died Tuesday in Balad.

In Fallujah, heavy machine-gun fire and explosions rang out in south-central parts of the city as U.S. Marines hunted remaining fighters. In the northern Jolan neighborhood, U.S. Marines fought insurgents who officers said had sneaked back into the city by swimming across the Euphrates River.

Bullets snapped overhead, and Iraqis collecting bodies of the dead ran for cover behind walls and in buildings as Marines returned fire. After 15 minutes of fighting, three insurgents were dead and one Marine was slightly injured in the hand, officials said.

The rush of warplanes streaking through the low-lying clouds shook the city and blasts sent smoke into the sky. The U.S. military said that airstrikes Wednesday were concentrated in southern western Fallujah, destroying enemy positions.

The U.S. military says it is fighting pockets of insurgents after taking most of Fallujah.

The car bomb came during clashes in Beiji, a city 155 miles north of the capital, witnesses said. The vehicle hit a convoy and exploded, then U.S. soldiers opened fire.

Ten people were killed and nine others wounded, hospital officials said, though it was not clear how many were caused by the blast. The 1st Infantry Division said three U.S. soldiers were wounded in the suicide attack. Beiji is the site of Iraq's largest oil refinery and a major power station.

U.S. forces and insurgents also battled for three hours in the center of the insurgent-heavy city of Ramadi, west of Fallujah.

Hospital officials said seven people were killed and 13 people wounded in the clashes, which left two residential buildings in flames.

A police spokesman in Karbala said a police officer from the city had reported that 31 policemen returning from training in Jordan were kidnapped over the weekend by insurgents who attacked their hotel in western Iraq. The spokesman said the report was not confirmed.

The Interior Ministry and the office of Prime Minister Ayad Alawi said they have not been able to confirm the report. A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Amman said he had not heard the report.

The police officer who made the report said he escaped a raid Sunday by armed men on the hotel in the town of Rutba, near the Jordan border, according to the police spokesman.

The officer said around 20 armed men attacked the hotel, covering the captives' heads with black bags and tying their hands before dragging them away, the spokesman said. The officer said he was beaten but was not abducted.

Meanwhile, Iraqi security forces, backed by U.S. Marines, freed a captive Iraqi truck driver during a raid south of Baghdad, the U.S. military said. The rescued hostage, who was not identified, was taken to a nearby U.S. base, where he was treated and released.

In Baghdad, some 3,000 protesters peacefully demonstrated the release of seven followers of Shiite Ayatollah Mahmoud al-Hassani,



U.S. troops take cover Wednesday following a car bombing north of Baghdad. An increasing number of attacks following an offensive to retake Fallujah have made November one of Iraq's bloodiest months.

who had been detained by U.S. forces in the past week.

The northern city of Mosul, where insurgents launched an uprising last week, appeared calmer, the military said Wednesday, after a U.S. assault to restore control. On a handful of small arms attacks continued, the military said.

The U.S. military said it was expanding its investigation into the fatal shooting of a wounded man by a Marine in a Fallujah mosque over the weekend. The investigation will also look into whether other wounded men in the mosque were also shot and killed, a spokesman said.

The probe was prompted by videotaped pool pictures by NBC that showed the shooting during an operation of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in the mosque on Saturday.

Allawi is "very concerned" about the shooting, his office said. American and Iraqi authorities have been trying to stem outrage over the shootings among Iraqis, particularly the Sunni Arab minority, and Arabs across the region.

U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte expressed regret over the shooting but said it should not undermine U.S. efforts to remove guerrillas from the city.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,198 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 943 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said as of Tuesday. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is twice lower than the Defense Department's tally of 1,210; it's not unusual for the figures to differ from day to day.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,060 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 831 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military

operations in Iraq, 8,956 U.S. servicemembers have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier died Tuesday in Balad, Iraq, from an explosive that hit a convoy.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Bradley L. Parker, 19, Marion, W.Va., died Monday in Anbar province; assigned 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Cpl. Dale A. Burger Jr., 21, Port Deposit, Md.; killed Sunday in Anbar province, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Andres H. Perez, 21, Santa Cruz, Calif.; killed Sunday in Anbar province, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

NATO approves plans for military training in Iraq

BY PAUL AMES

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO allies on Wednesday approved detailed plans to send up to 300 military instructors backed by hundreds of guards and support staff to Iraq in an expansion of the alliance's military training program.

The approval sets up a meeting of officers from the 26 allies next week at NATO's military headquarters in southern Belgium where U.S. troops are on a mission. The meeting would run a military academy outside Baghdad for Iraqi officers.

Alliance commanders want to have the

expanded mission up and running before the end of the year.

However, the alliance's top general added to concerns over the refusal of nations such as France and Germany to allow their troops to participate in the mission — even officers assigned to NATO headquarters.

"That is, of course, causing difficulties," German Gen. Harald Kujat told a news conference. "We don't have too many experts who can rotate."

Kujat, chairman of NATO's military committee, said he did not see difficulties in raising troops for the initial deployment of instructors and backup, but he said the re-

fusal of some nations to allow their NATO officers to participate could cause long-term problems.

"It's important that everybody contributes," he said. "There is a certain obligation."

NATO's top operational commander, U.S. Gen. James L. Jones, said last 16 of the 26 allies have agreed to participate in the operation, which aims to train about 1,000 officers a year.

In an interview carried this week in London's Financial Times newspaper, he too warned the decision of some allies not to send any soldiers could present problems as the alliance seeks to rotate its instructors.

Opponents of the Iraq war such as France, Germany and Belgium have insisted they will not send troops to Iraq, although they have offered to help with training Iraqi forces outside the country.

NATO officials are particularly worried that their refusal to allow officers posted to alliance staff positions to participate in Iraq could undermine the unity of NATO's integrated military command.

The alliance has nearly 70 staff in Iraq on its training mission which was launched in August. NATO has been drawing up and reviewing plans to expand the operation since September.

MPs multitask on the beat at LSA Anaconda

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — About one hour after dark recently, the headlights of Staff Sgt. Ken Williams' patrol vehicle captured a Humvee gliding through a stop sign on base like it was National Soccer Week.

Williams ticked his flashing, multicolored lights and the Humvee pulled off the road and stopped. Williams did the same and hopped out of his vehicle.

He was about to lecture the driver on the need to obey traffic laws on base when — CRACK! A mortar round landed about 300 yards away, close enough to fill the air immediately with the smell of the explosive.

Williams jumped back in his vehicle and rushed to the scene. An early radio report from his command post told him to expect injuries.

The incident demonstrates the multitask responsibility of the 44 members of the 362nd Military Police Detachment (Law and Order), a Reserve unit from Pennsylvania, but made up of soldiers from various states.

"We're probably the only Reserve unit that hasn't spent any time in the Reserve," said Capt. Williams Allen Jr., the commander.

The unit was created a little more than one year ago and immediately put on active duty and ordered to Iraq. It provides the base security for LSA Anaconda, home to about 23,000 troops, contractors and Department of Defense civilians.

The duties include everything from checking down on shoplifting at the post exchange and securing the perimeter after a mortar attack to treating the wounded.

"You never know what's going to happen," said Allen, a Florida native.

They are, essentially, cops on the beat. They have been called to break up fights between soldiers

and responded when a GI's CD player went missing.

They've even busted soldiers for having alcohol sent to them through the mail, including one soldier who mailed himself 160 cans of beer while on leave in the States. When it arrived and was discovered, all 160 cans were poured onto the ground at the MP headquarters.

"You've never seen so many grown men cry," said Williams, a veteran corrections officer in the United States.

They've busted a person with hashish, arrested drunken drivers and responded to a rape.

Sometimes more than one thing happens at once. Allen said he responded to a call of a male soldier beating up a female soldier in the middle of a mortar attack.

"I had to go make the arrest," he said.

They have been criticized for their attention to traffic laws, such as speeding and stop sign violation. Allen responds by noting that these soldiers of this week in traffic accidents in Iraq because safety rules were ignored.

"Three wasted lives," he said. This base, with its high number of vehicles ranging from small trucks to Abrams tanks, has its share of accidents, some resulting in injuries.

"We average probably a accident to two accidents a day," said Allen.

Near the base's main gate are the remains of a car that had a run-in with a Bradley fighting vehicle and became one of the obvious losers. It sits there as a reminder.

Williams said he arrested a man driving 85 mph one evening. The base is dark, he said, and many soldiers walk from place to place. Speed can kill.

One of their main duties is simply to patrol, driving the roads inside the 14-mile perimeter for hours at a time, keeping an eye out for anything out of the ordinary.

Staff Sgt. Louis Geiser, who works as a store detective for

Bloomingtondale's in Philadelphia and is a former active-duty MP, said he keeps his eyes out for suspicious bags, vehicles that haven't been moved in days or people walking where they shouldn't be.

"I do tend to pay more attention to local nationals, third-country nationals," he said.

The base employs a sizable number of non-American workers for everything from food preparation to laundry to construction.

Geiser said he may notice, for example, if someone in a food worker's uniform is far away from a dining facility at meal time.

Upon arriving last February, Geiser said, he would have preferred more duty out on the Iraqi roads, something more exciting, perhaps.

"It gets tedious at times," Geiser admitted of his job. "But after being here awhile, I believe we're doing some good."

That was shown in June when the exchange was hit in an attack and three people were killed and several others were wounded. The MPs saved lives that day with a quick and effective response to the call, Allen said.

When an attack takes place, every MP in the unit reports for duty, Allen said.

"When that happens, they all report to the MP station, whether they're in bed or just got off duty," he said.

In the recent attack, only one minor injury was reported. The POI — point of impact — was found later in the evening. What



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Ken Williams of the 362nd Military Police Detachment (Law and Order) searches for a point of impact and possible wounded following a recent mortar attack at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq.

had begun as a quiet day for the cops in the 362nd MP Detachment had suddenly gotten exciting.

"Sometimes it's boring and sometimes you're running three different ways at once," Williams said. "It can be quiet one minute. And everything breaks loose the next second."

That's the way it was with the recent attack that interrupted Williams' traffic stop. He rushed to the scene and found people taking shelter in bunkers. Several rounds had landed, but he couldn't find the POI or any injured.

Williams, wearing a small lamp on his helmet, searched around and inside a nearby building, walking at a pace that was nearly a trot. He asked in the bunkers if anyone was injured and received a negative response.

Satisfied, he reported to the MP

station via his radio, "Zero down. Zero down."

He later said he thinks people hit the ground at the first blast and were mistaken for injured.

Other MPs arrived to direct traffic and help with the search. Among them was Staff Sgt. Robert Parkinson, an organ recovery coordinator in Baltimore. He was on his way to the gym for a post-duty workout when the first blast hit.

"I thought, I better go get dressed," he said. "I came in to see where they needed me."

Attacks are so frequent — several times daily is normal — MPs rarely get eight hours of uninterrupted sleep without getting called to work.

"There's always that chance," said Parkinson. "We're over here. I don't expect anything less."

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Family, friends mourn CARE leader

BY MARIAM FAM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The apparent slaying of CARE head Margaret Hassan by her kidnappers deepened the chill among aid agencies already fearful of operating in Iraq. In Ireland, where Hassan was born, hundreds of mourners packed a church Wednesday to pay final respects.

Political leaders and relatives expressed shock and anger over the fate of Hassan, who was removed from her 30-year stint in Iraq, distributing medicine and essentials to Iraqis suffering under the sanctions of the 1990s. Iraqi officials say they believe Hassan was a blindfolded woman seen being shot in the head by a hooded militant on the way obtained but not aired by the Arab television station Al-Jazeera.

She would be the first foreign

woman to die in the wave of kidnappings in Iraq. No group had claimed responsibility. The 59-year-old Hassan, director of CARE International in Iraq, was abducted in Baghdad on Oct. 10.

British and Irish leaders condemned the 28-year-old militant's killing and the European Union said it would make no relief efforts in Iraq until it was impossible.

Christian Berthumeau of the World Food Program, one of many relief organizations that have drastically scaled back operations in Iraq because of security concerns, said Hassan's death would make mat-

ters worse.

"That's really a shock," Berthumeau said. "It's a very dangerous situation and unfortunately, for relief workers."

"If it's true, this is outrageous," said Astrid van Genderen Stort, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Amman. She said Hassan "worked even under the most difficult times in Iraq for the good of the Iraqi people, for 30 years."

WFP and other U.N. agencies pulled their international staff out of Iraq after a deadly bomb attack on United Nations offices in Baghdad last year. Many other groups have done the same, leaving local employees in place to carry on work.

CARE said it was in mourning for Hassan. The group has closed its Iraq operations since she was abducted Oct. 19 in Baghdad while she was being driven to work.

Dozens of military personnel get day of fishing

ISLAMORADA, Fla. — About 60 American military personnel — most who served in Afghanistan and Iraq — got some well-deserved "R&R" off the Florida Keys on Tuesday.

The outing was the brainchild of two south Florida sportfishing professionals. Charter boat captains in the Islamorada area provided a free day of fishing, while area businesses contributed gifts and various social events.

"What better way to show these true Americans how much their sacrifice means to all of us," said Capt. Skip Bradeen, a project co-organizer and Vietnam veteran.

The soldier-anglers seemed to relish the experience, despite choppy seas that affected a few. Five highly prized sailfish were caught and released, and a variety of food fish, the largest a 21-pound kingfish.

Reservist witnesses allowed to return home

BALTIMORE — Fourteen reservists from the 372nd Military Police Company, whose active duty was extended to ensure their availability as witnesses in the Abu Ghraib prison abuse trials, will be allowed to return to civilian life.

They are still expected to testify at the trials of fellow reservists accused of abusing Iraq detainees next year, but they were told that until then, they can return to their civilian lives like the rest of their unit did back in August. The (Baltimore) Sun reported.

Keeping the soldiers on active duty meant they would be readily available as witnesses in the criminal cases brought against seven members of the 372nd in the Abu Ghraib investigations.

From The Associated Press

Soldiers have only praise for FOB Wilson

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq — You won't find a Burger King or a movie theater or an Olympic-size swimming pool at this homely little base 15 miles south of Tikrit.

You won't find a soldier who has anything bad to say about it, either.

"This is the best FOB I've been on for any period of time," said Spc. Jared Wiggins, 26, of Las Vegas, a medic for Troop C of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. "It's smaller, everything's right there. The people here are respectful to each other, fun to be around."

FOB Wilson looks like a '70s suburban office park that has been through a war, which is exactly what it is. Saddam Hussein's regime used it as a manufacturing plant for radio, radar and other electronics gear.

The Americans bombed it during the first Gulf War, but not the second.

A tree-lined road leads up to a little circular drive, in front of a long, flat greenish building with narrow windows shaped like gun slits. Elsewhere on the base are cavernous warehouses that now house tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles and Humvees.

Green lawns have long since yielded to powdery desert sand, and the trees look dusty and weary, after the brutal Iraqi summer. The Army has graveled some of the yards, and the hulks of wrecked Iraqi trucks rust quietly beside the streets. Outside the stone wall topped with barbed wire lies a huge field of twisted aluminum and debris, believed to be wreckage from the U.S. attacks in 1991.

Unlike many Army camps, no

It's not pretty, but they love it

First 1st Sgt. Charles Bibb, 35, stands in front of the headquarters building of Troop C of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Wilson, Iraq.

one lives in tents. Soldiers live indoors, dormitory style, in green-tiled rooms with battered walls. They eat warmed-up military rations while watching a giant-screen TV in a chow hall decorated with a colorful mural of happy children presenting flowers to a smiling, benign Saddam.

"We've got TV, running water, electricity," said Capt. James Golby, 26, of Kewanee, Ill., as he relaxed in one of the camp's break rooms.

"I expected to be living like we were in Kuwait," said Sgt. Lamar Waring, 24, of the 1st Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, of the North Carolina National Guard, referring to where troops slept on cots

"At the bigger FOBs, you don't get the working relationship. This is more like a family."

Sgt. Kelly Little
1-113 Field Artillery

crammed into large tents.

Although FOB Wilson is one of the Army's smallest camps in Iraq, it seems roomy and empty. Only one cavalry unit and a few small Guard or Reserve detachments live here.

"A lot of guys like this post be-

cause it's small," said 1st Sgt. Charles Bibb, 35, of Porterville, Calif., Troop C's senior noncommissioned officer. "You go in to use the phone or the Internet, there's not a [waiting] line."

Sgts. Kelly Little, 33, and Seth Watson, 32, both of the 1-113 Field

Artillery, said they are more than willing to give up frills such as fast-food meals, swimming pools and sprawling PXs for a homey place such as Wilson.

"The exercise facilities are great," Little said. "At the bigger FOBs, you don't get the working relationship. This is more like a family."

"The big places — there's too much headquarters, too much brass," Watson added. "I'd rather be here."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewer@mail.estripes.osd.mil

PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

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An old Iraqi tank blocks the entrance to FOB Wilson. Under Saddam Hussein, the base was a manufacturing plant for radio, radar and other electronics systems.

Death of capt. brings shock of war home

Word spreads fast at DODDS alumnus' school, among friends across world

BY TERI WEAVER
Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON — When a student at Seoul American High School last year mentioned she was having a hard time caring about the faraway war in Iraq, Michelle Pell decided to make it matter.

Pell, an English teacher, began putting a sign on her door each day to tally the fatalities from the fighting. The latest count was at least 1,186, according to Pell's door.

But on Wednesday there was a second sign. Capt. Sean P. Sims, a 1990 Seoul American graduate, had died Saturday in Fallujah. Sims' death marks the first time a Seoul high school graduate has died in war, according to research done by current and former teachers.

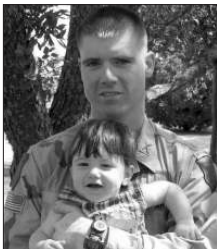
"I've been waiting for this to hit since the war started," Pell said while sitting in her empty classroom Wednesday afternoon. "It just makes me sick. We've got so many students who are there [in Iraq], who are on their way over there. It's like we're sitting on the ledge. It's hard."

Sims, 32, was a company commander assigned to the 1st Infantry Division in Vilseck, Germany, before going to Iraq in February. His wife, Heidi Sims, taught sixth grade at Vilseck Elementary School. They have a son, Colin Patrick, who is less than a year old. Both of their families live near El Paso, Texas.

The news of Sims' death spread throughout the school's extended community Wednesday with e-mails that crossed oceans and conversations that crossed hallways.

Michael O'Brien, a retired teacher now living in Hawaii, started an e-mail chain about Sims that reached former teachers and friends around the world. Within a few days, he had 40 to 50 e-mails.

"This was really a kind person, a gentle soul," O'Brien said in a phone interview about the teen who once ran cross country with



THE SIMS FAMILY/Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

Right: Charles Woodruff, Seoul American librarian, holds a yearbook with pictures of Sean Sims, an infantry captain killed Saturday in Iraq. Sims, shown above with his son, Colin, is the first Seoul American graduate killed in Iraq.

O'Brien's son. "Everyone who went to school with him remembers him, even if some of them didn't know him that well. The president of his class called me this morning and we talked. She cried the whole time."

By early Wednesday morning, the e-mail reached Denny Hilger, the volleyball coach at Seoul American who remembered Sims and his younger brother, Thomas. An announcement was made throughout the school; by lunch, librarian Charles Woodruff had made a memorial with Sims' senior portrait, an American flag and a poinsettia.

As lunch ended, students were talking about Sims' death and

about how young they were in 1990. Most teens in this year's senior class would have been 3.

But looking at Sims' senior yearbook, the difference in their ages seemed to slip away. Sims played tennis and soccer. He was on the student council and was voted "prom prince" his senior year, when the party floated on a boat on the Han River and the theme was "Moon River." There's a picture of him and a friend wearing glitter-covered sashes and crowns. He's

"We've got so many students who are there [in Iraq], who are on their way over there. It's like we're sitting on the ledge. It's hard."

Michelle Pell
Seoul American High School teacher

laughing.

"Most gasp when they hear," Woodruff said of students who were curious about the memorial. "It hits close to home. Once you're a SAHS

part of the family."

Sims' brother, Thomas, called his sibling a loving patriot and a proud father.

"Sean loved his country and the ideals it stands for," Thomas Sims wrote in an e-mail Wednesday to Stars and Stripes. "Although my family will miss him dearly, we are very proud that he gave his life in service of those ideals."

Sean Sims died while looking for insurgents hiding in Fallujah. In the hours before Sims' death, he and his company were suffering through the loss of their executive officer, a 28-year-old lieutenant who'd been shot and killed late last week.

"It's tough," Sims told a Knight Ridder reporter about the younger officer's death. The reporter was with the company the night Sims died. "I don't know what to think about it yet," Sims told the reporter about the lieutenant's death. "All of this will be forever tainted because we lost him."

The news report became a part of the e-mail chain O'Brien sent

around. The story described Sims as a quiet commander who never got frustrated when equipment broke down. He made sure his wife, Heidi, sent care packages to a 22-year-old soldier under his command who didn't seem to get any mail from home.

When Sims was found shot on a kitchen floor in Fallujah on Saturday night, the company's Iraqi translator had to be held back while he collapsed in tears.

In Seoul, the teachers and students had a shocking grief of their own.

"It's kind of tough to deal with," said Allison, a coach at the Seoul high school. "I'm sure everyone in the U.S. has their own story. This finally hits home here."

E-mail Teri Weaver at: weavert@spstripes.com

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Sean Patrick Sims Sul Ross Memorial Scholarship Fund. Send to Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840.

Alawi concerned by shooting of wounded Iraqi

BY KATARINA KRATOVAČ
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Prime Minister Ayad Alawi is "very concerned" about the fatal shooting by a U.S. Marine of a wounded and apparently unarmed man in a Fallujah mosque, his office said Wednesday. The U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte would look into whether other wounded men in the mosque were similarly killed.

American and Iraqi authorities have been trying to stem outrage over the shootings in Iraq, particularly the Sunni Arab minority, and Arabs across the region. U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte expressed regret over the shooting but said Wednesday it should not undermine U.S. efforts to remove guerrillas from the city.

The U.S. military said Tuesday it was investigating after pool video footage by NBC showed a Marine shooting a wounded man lying in a Fallujah mosque during an operation Saturday of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.

Military investigators also are looking into whether more than one wounded insurgent was shot in the mosque, said Maj. Francis Piccoli, a spokesman for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Two other men visible on the NBC video appear to be suffering from what the network described as fresh and fatal gunshot wounds.

"The prime minister is very concerned by allegations of an illegal killing by multinational forces in Fallujah," the statement from Alawi's office said. "He has dis-

cussed the matter with the commander of the multinational force in Iraq," Gen. George Casey.

"Gen. Casey has assured the prime minister that an urgent inquiry is under way, and that he will share its findings with the Iraqi government in full and with complete transparency," the statement added. "Unlike others, the prime minister will await the outcome of the investigation before commenting any further on this incident."

Negroponte said "no one can be happy" about the incident, "but the important point is that the individual in question will be dealt with."

"The matter is being looked into and whatever measures are taken will be under our system of military justice. I know will be taken," he said.

"But I don't think that [the incident] in

any way is a reflection on the quality and caliber of absolutely fine young servicemen and women we have serving here in Iraq," he said during his first visit to Saudi City, a large Shiite Muslim district of Baghdad.

The shooting occurred when a Marine unit entered the mosque and found five men wounded in fighting at the site the day before, when another Marine unit clashed with gunmen apparently using the mosque to fire from, according to NBC's Kevin Sites, the pool correspondent who took the footage.

In the video, as the cameraman moved into the mosque, a Marine can be heard shouting obscenities in the background, yelling that one of the men was only pretending to be dead. The Marine then raised his rifle toward an Iraqi lying on the floor of the mosque and shoots the man.



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Many active-duty Gs not transitioning into Guard

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Just more than half of the 7,000 active-duty soldiers that the Army National Guard sought to transition into its ranks did so in fiscal 2004, according to a Guard official.

The Guard managed to recruit just 3,900, or 58 percent, of those soldiers, during the one-year period that ended Sept. 30, according to Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Michael Jones.

Such soldiers are one of "three funnels that fill up the tub" for the Guard's recruits, Jones said in a Wednesday telephone interview.

The other two sources of recruits are people with no prior service who are recruited at the state level; and people who have served in the military, but left for some time before deciding to join the Guard, Jones said.

Soldiers who make an immediate transition to the Guard with no break in service, are a treasured resource because their training, physical conditioning, experience, and proven record of success in the military all are up to date, said Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard.

Schultz spoke Friday at the annual Military Reporters and Editors Conference in Arlington.

By comparison, "we've had years in the past when [as many as] 10,000 [active-duty] soldiers joined the Guard," said Schultz.

Retention, meanwhile, or the number of guardsmen who chose to stay, "was great," 99.8 percent in fiscal 2004, Jones said.

"We were surprised," Jones said. "Retention exceeded what we thought."

The higher-than-expected retention helped the Guard finish the year with 342,918 soldiers, or 98 percent of end strength, Schultz said.

To maintain its authorized end strength of 350,000, the Guard needed to recruit 56,000 soldiers in fiscal 2004 but ended up with about 88 percent of that total.

"We missed by 8,000" soldiers, Schultz said.

And after holding conversations with active-duty soldiers deployed to Iraq, the three-star general told a roundtable on reserve and National Guard issues at the conference that he is convinced that "nothing" will persuade these war-weary soldiers to jump straight into the Guard.

"I don't think there's a thing in the world we can do" to change these soldiers' minds, Schultz said, even though Congress added bonuses and benefits to the 2005 National Defense Authorization for re-servists.

"Money won't drive everything right now," Schultz said.

"It's not that these soldiers have a bad attitude," the retiring Army for sending them to combat zones for a year or more, Schultz said. "It's just that they need a break, and they've figured the deal out."

"The deal" is the realization that joining the Army National Guard no longer means immunity for deployments, he said.

The Army National Guard is adding another 1,000 recruiters before the end of the year to its existing force of 2,700 in an attempt to boost its end strength, but Schultz said he remains worried about strains on the force.

Staying up to strength is vital for the Guard because the pace of the Army's reserve deployments continues to be at an historical high.

As of mid-November, more than 93,400 National Guardsmen were either deployed or preparing for deployment, Schultz said, and in Iraq, reservists now account for 40 percent of the U.S. force.

And the third rotation of U.S. forces to Iraq, which is slated to begin next February or March, will include even more reserve and Guard soldiers than the first two rotations, Army officials have said.

"The question is how long can we keep this up?" Schultz said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.com

Army secretary confirmed as Air Force secretary resigns

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Air Force Secretary James Roche resigned and the Senate confirmed defense industry executive Francis J. Harvey as secretary of the Army, the service's top civilian post.

The roll call vote Tuesday on Harvey was 85 to 12, capping a long and convoluted series of moves that began when Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld fired Thomas White from the Army secretary job in May 2003 and initially asked Roche to give up his Air Force post to replace White.

Roche was nominated for the Army post, but got caught up in a series of controversies and conflicts with members of Congress over Air Force contracting decisions and other issues. He withdrew his nomination last spring, and remained as secretary of the Air Force.

Harvey was nominated two months ago, but his Senate confirmation vote was put off until after the Nov. 2 elections.

It was widely expected that Roche would leave the Air Force

before President Bush began a second term.

In a brief statement, the Pentagon said Roche had informed Rumsfeld in early October "of his intention to complete his service at the end of the first Bush administration."

The statement gave no more specific reason for Roche's departure.

Roche issued a brief statement saying, "We have successfully met many pressing national security issues facing the nation and the Air Force, especially in the global war on terrorism."

Roche did not mention why he decided to leave. A spokesman, Air Force Col. Jay DeFrank, said the White House had not pressured Rumsfeld to seek Roche's departure.

"He leaves the Air Force now

so that his resignation may free up nominations of Air Force general officers that have been on hold in Congress," DeFrank said. Some of those hamstringing nominations are connected to investigations into sexual harassment at the Air Force Academy.

Roche was an executive at Northrop Grumman Corp. before becoming Air Force secretary in 2001.

"Jim Roche has led the Air Force during an important period in history," Rumsfeld said in a written statement issued at the Pentagon.

There was no immediate word on a likely successor. The Pentagon said Roche planned to leave Jan. 20, 2005, or sooner in the unlikely event that the Senate confirms a successor by then.

Navy Secretary Gordon England has not said whether he intends to remain for a second Bush term.

Separately, the White House withdrew the nomination of Lawrence Di Rita to be assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, to replace Victoria Clarke, who resigned for personal reasons in June 2003.



Roche

Brig. Gen. James "Greg" Champion

Brig. Gen. John Sterling Jr.

Two generals join SETAF for tour in Afghanistan

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — At small Caserma Ederle, there are usually not a lot of people for colonels to salute.

Brig. Gen. Jason Kamiya, in line for his second star, is the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) commander. But other than that, it's only when other general officers visit the isolated Army outpost that there's any more star power on base.

That's changed recently, with Brig. Gen. James "Greg" Champion and Brig. Gen. John Sterling Jr. now calling the base home — at least until they deploy along with much of the base population to Afghanistan.

Both admit to getting a few second looks while walking around base. By comparison, Sterling — a deputy commander for U.S. Army Europe — is one of about a dozen American general officers in Heidelberg, Germany. He says his USAFEUR connection means he's not a total stranger to Vicenza.

"Although a lot of the soldiers in the 173rd Airborne Brigade might see me as somebody new coming in, I'd like to think that — at least for those on the SETAF staff — I'm someone they know," he said Wednesday during an interview in his office.

If not, they'll get plenty of opportunities to get to know their two new leaders. SETAF is set to lead Combined Joint Task Force-76 in Afghanistan early next year. Much of the SETAF contingent is going for the year-long tour, but so are a host of elements from Germany and the States.

Champion, director of information and management for the Alabama National Guard, is no stranger to Afghanistan. He commanded a group of special operations forces for six months starting in September 2002.

"It's not a new thing for me and that's probably why I was picked for this position," he said.

In some ways, he said, the environment in the country has changed. U.S. forces aren't constantly battling insurgent elements today like they are in Iraq.

"Clearly, we are moving toward predominantly stable operations and moving toward helping the Afghan government continue their progress," he said.

In another way, though, some aspects of Afghanistan haven't changed. The country is one of the poorest in the world and — unlike Iraq — never had much in the way of infrastructure outside the large cities.

That's where Sterling's unit, the 18th Theater Army Engineer Brigade, comes in. Although he'll be giving up command of the brigade to assume his post as deputy commander, much of Sterling's time will be focused on the rebuilding effort the United States, its NATO allies and international aid organizations have been conducting.

"There's a lot of work to be done in Afghanistan," he said. "You feel pretty good when you're able to see every day the changes you're making to make things better."

The 18th normally consists only of a headquarters element. So battalions from the States will be attached to it during the rotation. That's true for the task force across the board.

SETAF, smaller in size than many traditional brigades in the Army, will be joined by the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade and a handful of smaller units based in Germany.

"Most divisions don't have as much experience operating joint commands as SETAF has," Sterling said. "But what most commands have is a lot more people than SETAF has."

Getting all those people on the same page has been a priority in recent months.

"There is a challenge to get everyone together," Champion said. But both generals say that a recent exercise in Grafenwohr, Germany, helped to do that. Another one set in January will further the process.

"It will be a good, well-functioning team by the time we deploy to Afghanistan," Sterling said.

"And we're well along that way right now."

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IN THE STATES

Kmart, Sears to merge in \$11 billion deal

BY MEGAN REICHGOTT

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The discounter Kmart Holding Corp. is acquiring one of the most venerable names in U.S. retailing, the department store operator Sears, Roebuck and Co., in a surprise \$11 billion deal that will create the nation's third largest retailer.

The combined company under Wednes-

day's deal would be known as Sears Holdings Corp., but it was clearly orchestrated by Kmart chairman and Sears shareholder Edward Lampert, who will lead a new board that will be dominated by Kmart directors.

Shares of both companies surged on news of the deal. Kmart shares climbed \$16.08, or 16 percent, to \$117.30 in late morning trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market, while Sears shares soared \$9.42, or 21

percent, to \$54.62 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The new company is expected to have \$55 billion in annual revenues and 3,500 outlets. That will mean it will trail only Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Home Depot Inc. among the biggest U.S. retailers.

At a New York news conference for investors and the media, Lampert and Sears CEO Alan Lacy said the combined company will be able to take advantage of econom-

ies of scale and the prime location of some of Kmart's stores to better compete against "big box" stores like Wal-Mart and Target Corp. Lampert will be chairman of Sears Holdings and Lacy will be vice chairman and CEO.

The companies expect to achieve annual cost savings of more than \$300 million through the combination of their purchasing power, merchandising and a more efficient supply chain.

10-second flight a hypersonic success

BY JOHN ANTCAZAK

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An unmanned NASA jet screamed into the record books high over the Pacific Ocean by reaching speeds of almost 7,000 mph, brightening hopes that humans might one day be able to fly across a continent in minutes instead of hours.

The 12-foot-long X-43A supersonic combustion ramjet or scramjet — flew on its own power for just 10 seconds after separating from a booster rocket, but it was enough to excite researchers.

"We've given industry and government a lot of confidence to go forward with hypersonic flight," said Joel Sitz, the X-43A project manager at Dryden Flight Research Center on Edwards Air Force Base. "I think that technology definitely has a future."

Initial data indicated the aircraft flew at about Mach 9.6 — or nearly 10 times the speed of sound — said Randy Voland, the scramjet propulsion team leader from NASA's Lan-

gley Research Center in Hampton, Va.

The X-43A was mounted on a Pegasus rocket and carried aloft by NASA's B-52 carrier aircraft to a range off the Southern California coast. At 40,000 feet, the Pegasus was released and ignited, soaring to high altitude and a speed of Mach 9.8 before the X-43A separated and flew on its own at an altitude of 111,000 feet.

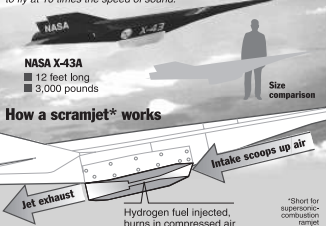
After 10 seconds of scramjet-powered flight, the X-43A became a glider and made a controlled glide to a splashdown in the ocean about 800 miles offshore. It will not be recovered.

The flight was the last in a \$230 million-plus program to test a technology most likely to be initially used to power missiles or in military aircraft, such as bombers that could reach any target on Earth within two hours of takeoff.

Scramjets may also provide an alternative to rockets for space launches. Sitz said he believes the technology eventually can also be used for commercial passenger flights.

Jet smashes speed record

NASA's X-43A "scramjet," an experimental, scaled-down version of hypersonic planes of the future, was built to fly at 10 times the speed of sound.



Flight of the X-43A

1 Modified B-52 bomber carries booster and X-43A to 40,000 feet over Pacific Ocean

2 Booster lifts X-43A to 100,000 feet

3 X-43A detaches and accelerates to 7,000 mph, runs out of fuel and crashes into sea



Source: NASA
Graphics: Helen McComas, Todd Lindeman © 2004 RRT

Ohio: Most ballots valid

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The vast majority of provisional ballots cast in Ohio were legitimate, say election officials who are poring over thousands of presidential election ballots.

"The ballots that are being rejected are invalid because people simply were not registered, did not give information such as addresses or signatures, or voted in precincts where they do not live."

"Some people thought because they had changed their mailing address at the post office, or had changed their utilities, that they had done everything necessary to be eligible to vote," said Nancy Moore, deputy director of the Belmont County Board of Elections. "They still have to change their address at the board of elections. We're not mind readers."

President Bush beat Democrat John Kerry in Ohio by 136,000 votes in unofficial tallies, and Kerry has conceded not enough outstanding votes exist to sway the election his way in the key battleground state.

Of the 11 counties that have completed checking provisional ballots, 81 percent of the ballots are valid, according to an Associated Press survey Monday.

From The Associated Press

Gobbler gets a break



President Bush holds Biscuits by the neck during the Pardoning of the National Thanksgiving Turkey ceremony at the White House on Wednesday in Washington. After the ceremony, the turkey was retired to the Kidwell Farm petting zoo at Frying Pan Park in Herndon, Va.

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Rice replacement views self as facilitator

BY GLENN KESSLER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Stephen Hadley, who will be elevated to national security adviser after Condoleezza Rice wins Senate confirmation as secretary of state, is a quintessential staff aide who views himself as a "facilitator" — someone who makes the policy trains run on time.

But Hadley's record on that score is mixed. The Sept. 11 commission report was critical of Hadley's handling of policy development in several areas. Hadley was also thrust in an uncomfortable spotlight when he accepted blame last year for allowing faulty intelligence to appear in the president's State of the Union address.

Hadley, 57, has worked his way up

through a succession of government posts, with Vice President Dick Cheney as one of his main advocates. But though becoming national security adviser has long been Hadley's dream, he hasn't left behind a rich paper trail of writings or books that outline a foreign policy philosophy, except for displaying a passion for missile defense.

He appears to have won his coveted post in part through a combination of long hours, tight-lipped loyalty and a proclivity for calling little attention to himself.

"He has a severe case of 'prison pallor' because he's in the office all the time," said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, who served on the "deputies committee" chaired by Hadley when he was deputy director of the White House Budget Office.

Stephen Biegun, who was executive secre-

tary of the NSC early in the administration, echoed that, noting: "I worked ungodly hours, but I never spent a minute more in the office than the guy I worked for."

O'Keefe, who also worked with Hadley in the Pentagon when Cheney headed it during the George H.W. Bush administration, described himself as a "huge Steve Hadley fan."

He said that Hadley is not contentious, doesn't take disputes personally and is unfailingly pleasant.

As Hadley characteristically sat silent in the front row during the ceremony announcing Rice's nomination, Bush on Tuesday called Hadley a "man of wisdom and good judgment" who "has earned my trust."

Before joining the Bush administration, Hadley was a lawyer at Shea & Gardner and

a principal in the Scowcroft Group, a consulting firm.

He was assistant secretary of defense in 1989-1993, a member of the national security staff in 1974-1977 and a Defense Department analyst in 1972-1974.

He is married to a Justice Department lawyer and has two daughters.

As Rice's chief aide, Hadley has been responsible for the day-to-day running of the National Security Council, especially because she spent so much time at Bush's side. Hadley dealt with a variety of personnel and policy issues, while trying to frame the debate for the contentious issues faced by the administration. He tried to forge consensus through formal meetings and through informal settings such as the "Wednesday Group," a weekly lunch of the five key deputies in the government.

Spellings tapped for education post

BY BEN FELLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Wednesday named White House domestic policy adviser Margaret Spellings to be the nation's eighth education secretary. "The issue of education is close to my heart and on this vital issue there's no one I trust more than Margaret Spellings," Bush told her.

If confirmed by the Senate, Spellings would replace Rod Paige in the Cabinet. Spellings, who was joined in the Roosevelt Room of the White House

with her two daughters, became emotional as she accepted the post.

"I am a product of our public schools," she said. "I believe in America's schools, what they mean to each child, to each future president or future domestic policy adviser and to the strength of our great country."

As Bush's domestic policy adviser, Spellings has helped shape the news while staying out of it herself. Karl Rove, the president's political strategist, was quoted this fall as saying Spellings is "the most influential woman in Washington that you've never heard of."

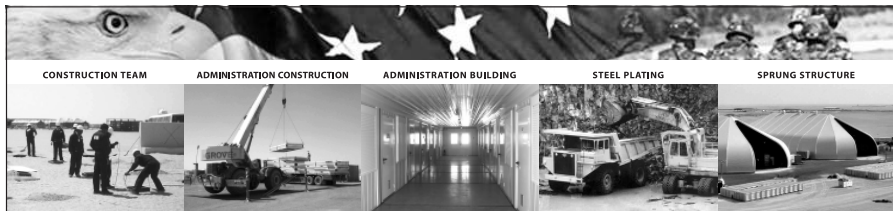
Spellings worked for six years as Bush's education adviser in Texas, pushing policies on early reading and student accountability. They became the model for the federal law, No Child Left Behind, that Spellings helped put together from the White House after Bush's election in 2000.

Spellings, 46, will take over leadership of the Education Department at a critical time. Many lawmakers, teachers and parents are frustrated by No Child Left Behind, which gives more attention to poor and minority kids but penalizes some low-income schools that fall short.



President Bush leaves the White House in May 2002 with Margaret Spellings. Administration officials said that Bush has decided to name domestic policy adviser Spellings to replace Rod Paige as education secretary.

AP



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OPINION

Democrats can rejuvenate party from within

It is sometimes said that one of Margaret Thatcher's greatest achievements is the modern Labor Party. That is to say, her political success was so devastating to Britain's socialists that they had no choice but to throw socialism overboard to win elections.

Philip Terzian

Something comparable might happen to the Democrats, but I wouldn't bank on it. Two weeks afterward, the shock of George W. Bush's re-election has hardly worn off, and the three "I's" — reassessment, recrimination and renewal — are getting under way again. The Democrats are becoming expert at post-defeat post-mortems: They remind me of Sylvia Plath's Lady Lazarus, who explains that "Dying/Is an art, like everything else. I do it exceptionally well."

Are the Democrats dying? The quick answer is no. John Kerry, for all his liabilities as a candidate, won 48 percent of the popular vote, a higher percentage than Bill Clinton, and 10 million more votes than Clinton received in 1992. The Democrats remain a viable minority in Congress, and roughly held their own among governorships and state legislatures. The same percentage of voters who identify themselves as pollsters as Republicans call themselves Democrats.

But in politics, modest differences in voter allegiance amount to vast divergences in power. Since 1968, the White House has been in GOP hands for 24 of the past 36 years. No Democrat from outside the South has been elected president since John F. Kennedy — who, lest we forget, squeaked by Richard Nixon in dubious circumstances. A one-vote majority in Congress (remember Jim Jeffords?) is all it

takes to control the machinery of the legislative branch.

The next three or four justices of the Supreme Court are likely to be nominated by Bush.

This does not mean that the Democrats are "a national party no longer," as Zell Miller puts it, but prospects are bleak. In the long term, it is now possible to see that the Democratic Party has been in a historic decline since Lyndon Johnson's defeat of Barry Goldwater in 1964. Between 1930 and 1994, Democrats controlled Congress for 66 years, and by huge majorities. In much of the second third of the 20th century, the Roosevelt coalition of urban and rural residents, minorities and blue-collar workers let the Democrats dominate the statehouses, the South, Congress and the White House. No longer.

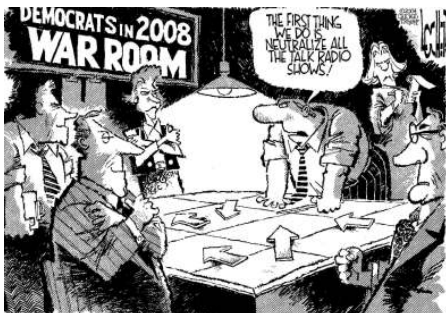
"The Solid South," which once meant the solidly Democratic South, is now solidly Republican, and Ronald Reagan broke the allegiance of blue-collar voters to Democrats. The GOP has controlled both houses of Congress since 1994, with the exception of 2001 to early 2003, when Jeffords' shift from Republican to independent let Democrats briefly take over the Senate.

Further, Bush is the first Republican president since William McKinley, in 1900, to win re-election and retain control of Congress.

Even Hispanics seem to be slipping from the Democrats' grasp: Bush won 44 percent of their votes this year, a big increase from 2000, and the next Republican presidential candidate could gain a majority of Hispanic voters in 2008.

I cite these figures not to rub it in, but to emphasize the Democrats' challenge: Either they examine themselves very carefully in the mirror, and make adjustments, or the differences between the two parties will grow more unbalanced.

Democrats have been so accustomed to their (former) status as the natural party of government that they have failed to



grasp the meaning of their decline. In their view, Republicans never win elections by legitimate means, but only through fraud, deception or appeals to bigotry.

Reagan, they assert, was an amiable B-movie actor who hypnotized the electorate. George H.W. Bush, they say, catapulted to power on the shoulders of Willie Horton. The incumbent President Bush, they complain, was "selected" by a bare majority of the Supreme Court, and has ridden to victory this year with lies and shameless appeals to chauvinism and religious zealotry.

As long as Democrats console themselves in such terms, things can only get worse. They need to recognize that most voters who cast Republican ballots are not stupid, or misguided, or malevolent, but citizens assessing their own, and the nation's, interests and making informed

choices.

Since the late 1960s, Democrats have been in thrall to special interests (teacher unions, trial lawyers, affirmative action) and uncomfortable with the use of force in defense of national interest and religious faith as an expression of ethical values. John Edwards notwithstanding, they are not the party of the Little Guy, but the Guys and Gals who look with horror on the Little Guy's beliefs about marriage, patriotism or abortion. While Republicans embraced Middle America, the Democrats became the party of economic envy, the Hollywood Left, the media elite and increasingly isolated tribes of urban/suburban dwellers who disdain Flyover America.

Comfortably arrogant, perhaps, and doomed to minority status.

Philip Terzian, The Providence (R.I.) Journal's associate editor, writes a column from Washington.

Timing of Cabinet change allows for smooth swaps

BY DALE McFEATHERS

Scripps Howard

President Bush had a remarkably stable Cabinet in his first term, which makes the announcement of the departure of six Cabinet secretaries, with hints of more to come, all the more dramatic.

Two departures during his first term were less than happy. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill was fired and Christine Todd Whitman, the Cabinet-level head of the Environmental Protection Agency, left under chilly circumstances.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martinez left for a successful Senate run in Florida, and White House budget director Mitch Daniels left for a successful run for Indiana governor.

And that was pretty much it. Then, in short order after the election, the attorney general and the secretaries of state, energy, education, agriculture and commerce all announced they were leaving. That's six of the 15 in the Cabinet.

(Presidents also get to designate certain officials — the trade rep, for example — as Cabinet-level.) But traditionally a president elected to a second term sees about three-fourths of his Cabinet turn over. President Bill Clinton was a rare example of Cabinet stability; five of his were with him the full eight years.

Although there might have been a gentle push here and there, Bush's Cabinet turnover seems generally amicable. Top administration officials leave for a variety of good reasons — burnout, health, more time with the family, an opportunity to make much more money in the private sector, to seek another office.

A civilized parting of the ways may serve Bush well later on. The day after President Nixon was re-elected in a landslide, he peremptorily demanded the res-

ignations of every member of his Cabinet and of his staff. Nixon, in rationalizing what he later admitted was a bad mistake, said he wouldn't have accepted most of them, but he wanted a dramatic way to symbolize a new beginning. But his appointees saw it as a stunning act of arrogant ingratitude. He had alienated many people he would need later on.

The new resignations come at a propitious time for the White House.

Official Washington is in a kind of full

right now. The lame-duck Congress will finish up only its most pressing business and the new Congress doesn't take its seats until January.

That gives the White House time to line up replacements and get the time-consuming chores of background checks and financial disclosures out of the way. That way the Senate, when it returns, will have no excuse for dawdling on confirmation of his nominees.

This may be a wholesale turnover, but it is shaping up as an exceptionally orderly one.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



*Content analysis project for Excellence in Journalism

IN THE WORLD

Khatami calls nuke deal 'a great victory'

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's president on Wednesday praised a nuclear deal reached this week with Europeans but warned that Iran's commitment to suspend uranium development on European support depended on a U.N. nuclear watchdog meeting next week.

Conservative lawmakers unhappy with the deal also threatened to finalize legislation forcing the government to resume uranium enrichment and related activities if Europeans failed to back Iran.

"Europeans, under the agreement, have recognized that Iran can exercise its rights [in seeking nuclear technology]. This is a great victory," President Mohammad Khatami told reporters.

But he said the first test of the deal was the Nov. 25 board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The agreement, detailed Monday by Iran and in a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, commits Iran to suspend all uranium enrichment and related activities within a week in return for European guarantees

that Iran has the right to pursue a peaceful nuclear program.

Iran has said the suspension will be brief and voluntary to build confidence that Iran is not pursuing nuclear weapons.

"Take the first step correctly and use Iran's confidence and good will. Show good will. If the IAEA board of governors adopts a decision, it will be a step in the direction that will give us more hope that our rights will be exercised," Khatami said.

"If we see that they don't keep their promise, it's natural that we won't fulfill our promise," he said.

The agreement appeared to represent a breakthrough for the Europeans and to hurt a push by the United States, which accuses Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons, to have Tehran hauled before the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

Khatami said a "positive" report by IAEA chief Mohamed El-Baradei indicated there was no need for any extraordinary investigation of Iran's nuclear activities.

Under the agreement, a working committee would be formed within weeks to define what economic, technological, security

and nuclear cooperation Europe will provide. It will report back within three months.

Iranian hard-liners, though, have accused the government of ignoring Iran's rights by agreeing to suspend enrichment.

Conservative lawmakers summoned Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Hassan Rowhani, to parliament Wednesday for a second consecutive day to question him over the agreement. The meeting was held behind closed doors.

Khatami sought to allay hard-line concerns Wednesday.

"We haven't and won't give up the right to enrich uranium and produce nuclear fuel," he said.

Inquiry ordered into cause of Arafat death

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia ordered an inquiry Wednesday to determine the cause of death of former leader Yasser Arafat.

The commission will take testimony from Palestinian and other Arab doctors in an effort to remove questions surrounding the Palestinian leader's death in a French military hospital last week, a statement from Qureia's office said.

The Percy Military Training Hospital, where Arafat died, has refused to publicly reveal his cause of death or hand over medical records to anyone but his widow, Suha, who has remained silent.

The secrecy has caused some Palestinian leaders to charge that Arafat was poisoned, though Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath has ruled out that possibility.

Report says Gulf War syndrome is real

LONDON — A new report on Gulf War illness urges the British government to acknowledge that Gulf War syndrome is real and calls for compensation for veterans who became ill following service in the 1991 conflict.

The inquiry, led by retired senior judge Lord Lloyd of Berwick, was not commissioned by the government. The investigation was set up at the request of Lord Morris of Manchester, the parliamentary adviser to the Royal British Legion, after the Ministry of Defense refused an official inquiry.

Many thousands of Gulf War veterans have experienced undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms such as chronic fatigue, loss of muscle control, diarrhea, migraines, dizziness, memory problems and loss of balance.

Belgian senator in hiding after life threatened

BRUSSELS, Belgium — A Belgian senator of Moroccan origin, known for his criticism of conservative traits within immigrant Muslim communities, has gone into hiding after receiving death threats, officials said Wednesday.

Mimount Bousakla, 32, contacted police after receiving threatening telephone calls last weekend, said a Socialist party official who asked not to be identified. Bousakla showed up for work at Parliament on Wednesday, but now lives at a secret location.

"She again received threats and now has round-the-clock police protection and has gone into hiding," the official said.

Standard set for human gene testing

GENEVA — The World Health Organization said Wednesday it approved the first international standard for a human genetic test to help laboratories improve the accuracy and quality of their results.

The standard — which will help identify testing errors — is for a commonly used procedure that identifies a genetic predisposition to thrombosis, or blood clots, a potentially life-threatening condition.

Standards could also eventually be introduced for other genetic disorders, such as cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy.

Offices of Russian oil giant raided

MOSCOW — Law enforcement agencies raided the head office of Russian oil giant OAO Yukos and the company's most important subsidiary, a Russian news agency reported Wednesday.

Citing an unnamed law enforcement source, the Interfax news agency said authorities were searching for and confiscating documents at Yukos' Moscow office and at the subsidiary, Yuganskneftegaz.

"The investigation is being conducted as part of the probe into Yuganskneftegaz tax debts for 2000," the source said, according to Interfax.

From The Associated Press

EU threatens tariffs unless U.S. drops anti-dumping law

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union said Wednesday it has selected U.S. products to punish with tariffs next year if Washington doesn't quickly repeal an anti-dumping law ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization.

The list submitted to the WTO this week targets "vocal U.S. sectors that could help Congress focus its mind on compliance," said EU trade spokeswoman Arancha Gonzalez.

The products include textiles,

sweet corn — aimed at farmers — and heavy machinery made by companies like Caterpillar Inc., which is based in Illinois, the home state of U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

She said the sanctions could go into force "early next year" unless Congress, which returned for a lame-duck session this week, repeals the 3-year-old legislation.

"There is still a chance that the U.S. changes the legislation," Gonzalez said. "We hope this takes place now."

U.S. trade spokeswoman Neena Mojarani said the Bush adminis-

tration was working with Congress to bring the law into compliance. "We intend to comply with the WTO ruling," she said.

"Complex issues like these often take time."

The EU was joined in its complaint by seven countries, which got authorization to impose sanctions from the WTO in August, two years after the global trade referee first ruled the U.S. legislation illegal.

The law, known as the Byrd amendment, allows American companies to receive proceeds from antidumping duties levied on foreign rivals.



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Burger bonanza

IN CHATTANOOGA — Takeru "The Tsunami" Kobayashi ate 69 mini-hamburgers in eight minutes to collect \$10,000 and be crowned the first Krystal Square-Off World Hamburger Eating Champion.

The 130-pound Kobayashi, who is also the champion of Nathan's International Hot Dog Eating Contest held on Coney Island, N.Y., beat 13 other contestants.

Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas ate 46 small square hamburgers for second place and \$5,000, and Richard "The Locust" LeFevre ate 41 for third place and \$2,500.

Not the cable guy

CT WEST HAVEN — In a hard hat and tool belt, police said Jeremy Dunbar looked just like every other cable repairman.

Problem was, authorities said, he couldn't legally do the work. Dunbar appeared in court on charges he took \$100 from a local family to hook up their disconnected cable service.

Authorities said they discovered the alleged scheme when they saw him climbing a ladder on a telephone pole, and because it was an odd time of the day for line work, inquired about his credentials.

Dunbar was charged with one count of theft of a community antenna for profit.

School sweeps up gift

MT GREAT FALLS — A 10-year-old part-time janitor who worked at the University of Great Falls has left the college \$2.3 million — the largest gift the school has ever received.

Genesis Morlacci died in Halloween at the age of 10.

Morlacci, a former day cleaner, owned Sun Cleaners for several years before selling his business and going to work as a janitor at UGF.

A native of Italy, Morlacci directed that 95 percent of the money go to scholarships. The university can choose how to spend the remainder.

Cops stun kid again

FL MIAMI — Police have acknowledged using a stun gun to immobilize a 12-year-old girl just weeks after an officer jolted a first-grader with 50,000 volts. Police Director Bobby Parker said that he could not defend the decision to shock the fleeing girl, who was skipping school and apparently drunk.

According to the incident report, officer William Nelson responded to a complaint that children were swimming in a pool, drinking alcohol and smoking cigars.

Nelson said he noticed the girl was intoxicated and was walking her to his car to take her back to school when she ran away through a parking lot.

Nelson, 38, said he chased her and yelled several times for her to stop before firing the Taser when she began to run into traffic.

Parker said department policy permits officers to use the Taser to apprehend someone, but he said he expected his officers to use better judgment, especially when po-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

lice had no plans to arrest the girl.

Orangutan makeover

IL CHICAGO — A middle-aged female orangutan called Maggie is fitter, trimmer and looking for love after undergoing what her keepers call "Maggie's Extreme Makeover."

In addition to healthier-looking skin and fur, Maggie has dropped 90 pounds and no longer snores or suffers from the flatulence, runny nose and constipation that once plagued her until keepers detected a thyroid condition.

Until treatment, keepers had tried unsuccessfully to get the 43-year-old ape to shed some pounds. Male orangutans didn't interest her, either.

The thyroid treatment also has Maggie looking for love because it regulated her menstrual cycle and jump-started her desire to mate. Maggie, who socialized little when she first arrived at the suburban Chicago zoo in 1995, is now paying more attention to the male orangutans, officials said.

Expensive project finished

AK ANCHORAGE — Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. has completed a \$6.5 million project strengthening the 800-mile-long trans-Alaska pipeline. The company says the pipeline should be able

to withstand an 8.0-magnitude earthquake through the Denali fault corridor, according to project manager Tom Coghill. The pipeline carries about 1 million barrels of oil a day.

Costly halfway house

WA SEATTLE — A halfway house for sex predators would cost \$1 million a year for each of the first two men in the program, officials say. The state plans to move the men next summer to the building beneath the West Seattle Bridge. It will have a staff of 22 people for round-the-clock security.

Beauty rabbit pageant

RI PROVIDENCE — Coifed, pampered and fluffed, about 15,000 rabbits were getting ready for competition at the American Rabbit Breeders Association convention, where judges will be awarding prizes for best in show and other categories.

The event isn't as prestigious as the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, but it can be as spirited.

Organizers at the Rhode Island Convention Center gush about the pampered and coddled stars of the event, keeping them in top condition — no matted fur, runny eyes or sore spots.

During the week, the handlers of the show bunnies also will attend various association meetings and other events.

It's the first time the breeders association, based in Bloomington, Ill., has met in Rhode Island and the first time in 50 years that the convention has been held in the Northeast.

Dollar goes 'dam' far

LA GREENSBURG — Beavers found a bag of bills stolen from a casino, tore it open and wove the money into the sticks and brush of their dam on a creek near Baton Rouge.

"They hadn't torn the bills up. They were still whole," said Maj. Michael Martin of the East Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office.

The money was part of at least \$70,000 stolen from the Lucky Dollar Casino in Greensburg, about 30 miles northeast of Baton Rouge.

Sheriff's deputies in St. Helena Parish, where the truck stop video poker casino is located, have accused a security guard at the casino of disabling its security cameras. Jacqueline Wall, 25, was booked with felony theft, Martin said.

She told investigators a ski-masked gunman made her help him empty all the casino's safes, then kidnapped her, knocked her out and left her in an uninhabited area in East Feliciana Parish.

Governor-elect cleared

MO JEFFERSON CITY — The state Ethics Commission cleared Gov.-elect Matt Blunt of allegations he used government money for political purposes by running pro-voting newspaper ads featuring his smiling face. Blunt, as secretary of state, purchased \$48,000 in advertisements with federal funds just before the Aug. 3 primary in which he was a Republican candidate for governor.



Were you a good boy?

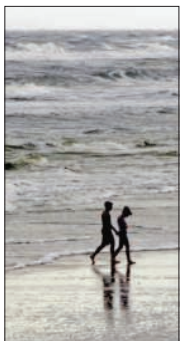
Before having a Christmas photo taken at the Fox Valley Humane Association fundraiser in Greenville, Wis.



Out for a ride

Park in Spartanburg, S.C.

Marly Diver enjoys a brisket afternoon ride on her homebuilt bicycle around Duncan



Braving the weather

Doug and Ashley James, both 19, of Warrenton, Mo., walk through the surf on New Smyrna Beach, Fla. The beach was almost empty as a storm front brought high winds and rough surf.

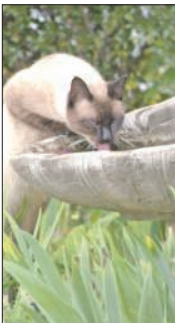


Fishing in the fog Sam Bosier prepares two poles while fishing on Stillhouse Hollow Lake in Harker Heights, Texas, as a heavy fog blankets the central Texas region.



Autumn chores

Henry Cargill, 10, left, and her brother, Henry Cargill, 11, had their hands full in front of their home in St. Joseph, Mo.



Note to birds ...

A Siamese cat takes advantage of a bird bath for a drink outside of Van Center for Art and Education in Van Buren, Ark.



Feeding time

Woody Pike hand-feeds some of the 2-year-old alligators in a holding pen at Gatorama near Palmdale, Fla.

Penalties crowd prisons

KY LOUISVILLE — Kentucky's prison population has exploded by 600 percent since 1970 and will keep growing because of "irrational" penalties enacted by lawmakers, according to a study.

University of Kentucky law professor Robert Lawson, who wrote Kentucky's penal code, says the state's budget for housing prisoners has risen from \$7 million to more than \$300 million since 1970 and is threatening to bankrupt the system.

Funny money case

PA GREENSBURG — Charges have been dropped against a woman who paid for clothes with a fake \$200 bill that featured President Bush's picture and the serial number DUBYA4U2001.

Westmoreland County prosecutors dropped all charges against Deborah L. Trautwine, 51, after she paid the store in real currency. Trautwine wasn't aware that the bill wasn't actual legal tender, said her attorney, Harry Small Jr.

A clerk at a Fashion Bug clothing store also apparently was fooled by the funny money. She gave Trautwine \$100.58 in change following an August transaction.

There is no \$200 denomination bill, even without Bush's picture on it. The back of the phony bill depicted the White House with several signs erected on the front lawn, including those reading "We Like Broccoli!" and "USA Deserves A Tax Cut."

Carbon monoxide kills 2

FL MIAMI — Two college students were found dead in a parked minivan along a Florida roadside, apparent victims of carbon monoxide poisoning. The van's engine was still running when they were discovered, authorities said.

A sheriff's deputy was on routine patrol west of Fort Lauderdale when he spotted the vehicle near Weston. The windows were fogged up and a tail light was out. The exhaust system of the minivan was "in disrepair," officials said.

The victims were identified as 19-year-old Janelle Bertot and Tony Perez, 25. Both attended Florida International University.

"They were apparently popular and very loved students who were very involved in the university," FIU spokeswoman Maydel Santana-Bravo said.

They had been dating for about a month, friends said.

Outpouring for police dog

MN DULUTH — Newspaper readers were so touched by the story of a blind police dog named Timber that they paid for an operation to restore his sight.

In fact, they paid for the \$2,500 surgery many times over.

Officer Michelle Rafferty was ready to cover the cost out of her own pocket rather than let her cash-strapped department exchange her partner for a new dog.

But when a story about Timber's cataract operation and Rafferty's devotion appeared in the Star Tribune of Minneapolis last month,

readers sent more than \$20,000.

Two weeks later, 22-month-old Timber appears to see well, perhaps for the first time.

When nature called last week, he had no trouble zigzagging through a stand of trees before selecting one that suited his purpose.

Museum diagnosis

IN BLOOMINGTON — A trip to a children's science museum proved to be a day of discovery for a 5-year-old boy and his mother, who discovered a possible heart condition in the child while checking out an exhibit.

The Rhythm of Life exhibit at the WonderLab hands-on museum allows two people to sit on either side of a bass drum and grasp a horizontal metal bar. Brass sensors detect each person's pulse, which triggers a drumstick to beat in time with the person's heart.

Melissa Hinkle noticed that her 5-year-old was beating about 80 times per minute, while her son's peaked at 150 times per minute.

The average heart rate for a child his age is 100.

Hinkle whisked her son to a hospital emergency room.

An electrocardiogram confirmed he had an elevated heart rate, so cardiologists gave him a heart rate monitor that he wears round-the-clock.

Dr. Richard Malone, the boy's pediatrician, said abnormal heart rates can be triggered by a number of causes such as fever, exercise, dehydration or anxiety. He said the condition is often successfully treated.

Company moves to China

SD WATERTOWN — A major employer is moving most of its business to China to save money and be closer to most of its customers.

CoEv Magnetics, a unit of Tyco Electronics, is ending its manufacturing operations and laying off 111 employees, officials said. The Watertown location will become a business development and support center with a staff of 32.

Hotly cheese sandwich

FL MIAMI — The people at this cheesy miracle: half of a 10-year-old grilled cheese sandwich whose owner claimed it bore the image of the Virgin Mary.

Diana Duyser put the sandwich up for sale, drawing bids as high as \$22,000 before eBay pulled the item.

The page was viewed nearly 100,000 times before being taken down.

An e-mail Duyser received from eBay said the sandwich broke its policy, which "does not allow listings that are intended as jokes."

But Duyser, a jewelry designer who has bought and sold items on eBay for two years, insisted this was not a laughing matter.

Duyser, 52, said she took a bite after making it 10 years ago and saw a face staring back at her from the bread.

She put the sandwich in a clear plastic box with cotton balls and kept it on her night stand.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Hanks considers 'Da Vinci Code' movie

Will Tom Hanks crack "The Da Vinci Code"? Director Ron Howard and producer Brian Grazer, the team behind "A Beautiful Mind," said in Newsweek that they wanted the "Saving Private Ryan" star because of the cerebral nature of Dan Brown's best-selling novel.

"Tom is an exciting actor to watch thinking," Howard told Newsweek. "We probably don't need his status from a box-office standpoint, but he gives Langdon instant legitimacy."

Hanks would play Robert Langdon, a Harvard symbologist who is a life-or-death race to uncover the secrets of the Holy Grail hidden in the works of Leonardo Da Vinci.

The actor's representatives said he is in negotiations to play the part, but has not yet been locked in.



Hanks

Golfer wants out of the spotlight

Tiger Woods wants out of the tabloids like he wants out of a sand trap.

The golfer was caught off guard by the coverage of his October wedding to Swedish model Elin Nordegren at a lavish sunset ceremony in Barbados.

"It's wild. I'm a golfer, I'm not a person in Hollywood," Woods told Associated Press Television in a recent interview in Los Angeles. "I'm not a person who is all over the tabloids... For some reason, it made news."

Woods, notoriously private, would like to keep it that way. "We just want to have it private so it's just friends and family that are closest to us," he added. "For the media to try and get in there, I thought was invasive. There's no doubt about it."

Woods' precautions appeared to include hiring the only helicopter charter company on the island, which was often booked solid — a move that prevented journalists and photographers from flying over the event.

He also rented out the entire hotel, which has about 200 rooms ranging in price from \$700 to \$8,000 a night, according to the hotel's Web site.

Beckham not interested in Hollywood

David Beckham said he turned down a "good part" in a Hollywood movie.

"I've never said that I wanted to go into movies. I've been offered a couple of things like 'The Pink Panther,' but my football comes first," said the Real Madrid midfielder, referring to a role in a remake of the Peter Sellers classic.

"The Pink Panther," which is to be released next summer, will star Steve Martin as Inspector Clouseau, and Beyoncé Knowles. It is to be set around the murder of a soccer coach, according to the movie's Web site.

Beckham denied reports that he might retire from international soccer after the next World Cup finals.

Beckham has never acted in a film, but was the muse to the 2002 movie "Bend it like Beckham."



Beckham

Actor sues clothing company

Actor Peter Fonda has sued a clothing company for more than \$123,000, saying Dragonfly Clothing Inc. violated a licensing agreement that allows it to market apparel bearing his image.

The Fullerton-based Dragonfly was to pay Fonda guaranteed minimum royalties of \$20,000 on Sept. 10 but failed to do so, according to an amendment agreement attached to the lawsuit. The suit was filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Dragonfly has also refused to make remaining payments under the amendment to the licensing agreement, the suit alleges. The company still owes Fonda royalty payments of \$15,000 on Dec. 10; \$15,000 on March 10 and other payments of \$10,000 each, according to the amendment.

Dragonfly markets clothing bearing the logos or likenesses of a number of famous personalities, including Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix, Elvis Presley, James Dean and others.

Stories and photos from wire services

Ryan Cabrera: More than just a boy toy

Introduced to the world through Ashlee Simpson, this young rocker debuts his first album

BY REBECCA MILLER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ryan Cabrera may be better known as Ashlee Simpson's ex-boyfriend, but now he's making a name for himself.

His major label debut album, "Take It All Away," has sold more than 320,000 copies so far, and its first single, "On the Way Down," hit No. 8 on the Billboard chart. After opening for Jewel and Jessica Simpson and performing on college campuses, Cabrera just kicked off his first headlining tour.

But it was hard work — not connections — that brought the 22-year-old singer this far.

He first picked up a guitar at age 15 and spent the next few years teaching himself to play chords and simple tunes.

He formed a band with some buddies — Cabrera got roped into singing — and played gigs around the Dallas area for a few years. He went to college but dropped out after a year to devote himself to music, knowing his voice needed work.

His coach turned out to be Jessica Simpson's instructor, and she recommended to Simpson's manager-father that he check out Cabrera.

After signing with Joe Simpson, Cabrera landed a recording contract and went to Los Angeles, where he lived with the Simpsons for eight months. And then...

AP: I have to ask about your relationship with Ashlee Simpson.

Cabrera: We were best buds. It became like a brother-sister relationship. We were dating other people when I moved in, but that didn't work out. Then we got together during my video, and then after that, it was ON.

AP: And now?

Cabrera: Just like we were before — we're best friends. It sucks because we're both doing so many things right now that it's impossible to be together right now. We'll see what happens in the future.

AP: Was it weird watching your relationship on her reality TV show and knowing other people were, too?

Cabrera: The only weird part is how they show it. I'm used to being around cameras because of ("Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica").

What's weird is when they edit it and try to put a month's period into one show.

AP: Did her show help your career?

Cabrera: Sure. Whenever people get to see you, it's a

great thing. Once people see an image and see the character, they can get into the music a lot more.

AP: How did you get into singing? Was it something you always wanted to do?

Cabrera: Absolutely not. The guys in my band said "There's three of us and one of you, so you're singing." I was horrible. I was absolutely awful. That's why I put myself through that insane program.

AP: What did it entail?

Cabrera: I sang every day by myself for six hours. I was holding up chairs while singing scales to work out my diaphragm. I heard Michael Jackson do it, but everybody said not to, it's not good for your voice.

AP: A lot of your songs deal with breaking up or thanking a girl for her love. Did you draw on personal experiences?

Cabrera: I would say so. I went through losing my first love while I was writing the album. I also wrote a song about the new girl in my life. "On the Way Down" is about searching for happiness in things that weren't real, searching for happiness in material possessions. For me, it's a spiritual song. But I left some open to interpretation. It could be about a girl, or it could be about a pet parakeet.

AP: How did you guys get into "Rock, Vote & Win"?

Cabrera: I wanted to be involved with Rock the Vote, but Joe suggested we do our own thing. Then we got Clear Channel on board and came up with the idea. I wanted to get involved with something. I didn't care exactly what. "Rock, Vote & Win" is really educational, and it's fun for schools. We're not trying to tell them who to vote for, we're just telling them to vote.

AP: Did you vote in the last presidential election?

Cabrera: I did NOT vote last time. When I was 18, I was a punk kid just trying to play guitar, not really trying to know what's going on. That's why we're trying to get people aware.

AP: Anything else I need to know about you?

Cabrera: I really like chocolate chip cookies.

A lot of us know Ryan Cabrera as Ashlee Simpson's ex-boyfriend, but now there's more to be known about this 22-year-old rocker. His debut album "Take It All Away" shows Cabrera in a different light, as a young man looking for love and dealing with loss.

AP/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER SIK



YOUR MONEY

Homeowners to feel pinch of heating costs

BY BRAD FOSS

The Associated Press

Bob Sadowksi wants to stay warm without going broke this winter and so, with apologies to home decorating mavens, he's insulating the windows of his home in Easthampton, Mass., with plastic sheeting.

Similarly motivated, R.J. Moore of Kansas City, Mo., will bundle up indoors rather than cranking up the thermostat.

Leroy DeHerrera of Denver expects to deal with home heating costs a little differently this winter. "I guess I'll go through the roof when the bill comes."

Although oil prices have fallen nearly \$8 a barrel from their October peak, homeowners are bracing for sharply higher winter fuel bills. The Energy Department this week estimated that bills for heating oil customers will be 37 percent higher than last year, while homeowners relying on natural gas can expect to pay 15 percent more.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting a normal winter in the Midwest and Northeast, cooler-than-normal temperatures in the South and Middle Atlantic states and warmer-than-normal conditions throughout the West.

Unless temperatures are warmer than expected over the next five months, "there isn't a lot of reason for us to think that prices will fall a lot," said Dave Costello, an economist at the Energy In-

formation Administration, the statistical wing of the Energy Department.

And so people like Sadowksi are taking last-minute steps to make their homes more energy-efficient.

"I know it doesn't look good," Sadowksi said about the plastic around his windows that flap in the wind. "You have to pay yourself if you'd rather be paying an extra \$100 a month for (heating) oil."

The 33-year-old cook also installed a digital thermostat for more accurate temperature control — and in what now looks to be a savvy financial decision: he locked-in his heating oil costs for the winter at \$12.6 a gallon. As of this week, Massachusetts residents were paying an average of \$1.96 a gallon, according to Energy Department data. The nationwide average for heating oil is \$2.03 per gallon, compared with about \$1.39 a gallon a year ago.

The surge in heating oil prices this fall was magnified by tight supply, analysts say. Government data show that the nation's inventory of distillate fuel, which includes heating oil, shrank on a weekly basis for two months.

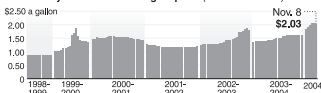
In mid-September Hurricane Ivan forced refineries along the Gulf Coast to shut down and evacuate employees. Rather than restart operations once the storm passed, many started pre-winter maintenance earlier than usual.

Inventories of distillate fuel are

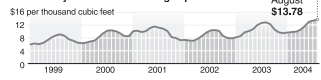
Fuel bills heating up this winter

The latest surge in heating oil prices this fall has homeowners bracing for higher fuel bills this winter.

U.S. weekly residential heating oil price (October - March)



U.S. monthly residential natural gas price



SOURCE: Energy Information Administration

now roughly 13 percent below year ago levels, but analysts expect supplies to grow soon and they may anticipate any shortages. That said, they do worry that supplies could be stretched thin if temperatures are colder than expected.

The other concern is the high price of crude oil, from which heating oil is refined. While crude futures prices are down from late October highs above \$55 a barrel, they are still about 50 percent above levels a year ago due to surprisingly strong demand, a thin global supply cushion and market fears about the war in Iraq, labor strife in Nigeria and other tensions in oil producing nations.

Crude for December traded Friday at about \$47.30 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The cost of crude oil accounts for about half the retail price of a gallon of heating oil. The remainder is due to refining and marketing costs, taxes and profits.

The strengthening economy has helped push natural gas futures up 50 percent from a year ago to roughly \$7.20 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Still, many brokers say speculation played an outsized role in the rapid rise of natural gas prices this fall, since there is plenty of fuel in storage ahead of winter.

The latest Energy Department data showed the nation's natural

gas supply to be 8.7 percent higher than the five-year average.

"The fundamentals of the natural gas market were not bullish at all," said James Cordier, head trader at Liberty Trading Group Inc. of Tampa, Fla.

The prevailing wisdom these days is that oil will stay below \$50 a barrel in the near-term, barring any unusually cold weather.

Sentiment shifted as the nation's supply of crude oil grew rapidly in recent weeks, signaling to many traders that refiners are preparing to ramp up production.

"With crude oil prices being quite expensive, there's no reason to load up on crude unless they plan to refine it," said Peter Beutel, president of Cameron Haver, Inc., a New Canaan, Conn.-based provider of industry analysis.

But Beutel said the average heating oil customer should expect to pay \$300-\$800 more this winter due to the higher costs distributors are paying at the wholesale level.

Yet if homeowners have little control over energy prices, to say nothing of the weather, they do have the power to conserve fuel. The Mortgage Industry of Kansas City aims to do just that.

Forty-nine-year-old R.J. Moore is winterizing his home for the first time by closing off some rooms, putting plastic over windows and caulking any seams where heat may try to escape. Asked if his family was sweating the socks around the house, he replied: "We're going to this year."

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week	High	Low	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD 52-week	High	Low	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD 52-week
10.30	15,550.50	15,550.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.30	15,550.50	15,550.50	0.00	0.00
3,628.20	2,743.46	2,743.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,628.20	2,743.46	2,743.46	0.00	0.00
230.60	243.26	243.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	230.60	243.26	243.26	0.00	0.00
7,014.32	5,922.45	5,922.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,014.32	5,922.45	5,922.45	0.00	0.00
1,556.88	1,664.93	1,664.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,556.88	1,664.93	1,664.93	0.00	0.00
1,759.82	1,759.82	1,759.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,759.82	1,759.82	1,759.82	0.00	0.00
1,384.68	1,510.20	1,510.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,384.68	1,510.20	1,510.20	0.00	0.00
548.29	545.26	545.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	548.29	545.26	545.26	0.00	0.00
823.90	823.90	823.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	823.90	823.90	823.90	0.00	0.00
11,616.62	10,859.28	10,859.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,616.62	10,859.28	10,859.28	0.00	0.00

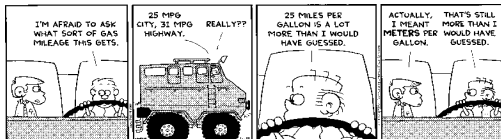
NYSE

Most Active (\$1 or more)	Volume	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD 52-week
Apple	31,186	1.14	+3.6	+3.6
Microsoft	30,862	1.14	+3.6	+3.6
Amazon	20,916	1.14	+3.6	+3.6
Google	22,249	27.32	+1.1	+1.1
Facebook	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alibaba	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
Twitter	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
LinkedIn	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
YouTube	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
Instagram	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
WhatsApp	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
Slack	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zoom	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dropbox	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
OneDrive	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
Box	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
Google Drive	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
Microsoft OneDrive	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00
Apple iCloud	1,111	0.00	0.00	0.00

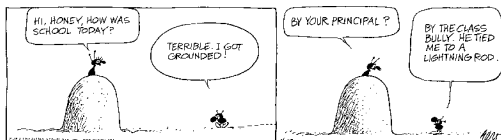
AMEX

E (\$1 or more)			MOST ACTIVE (\$1 or more)			
	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
	38.59	-21	Sirius	1867779	4.71	+26
	117.84	-89	ChartComm	1887594	2.16	+55
	33.53	-10	Microsoft	634696	2.12	-27
	105.13	-60	Intel	599394	23.84	+07
	123.45	-1.10	Cisco	396220	19.38	-17
	3.17	+34	SunMicro	365113	4.96	-13
	10.32	-06	Peoplesoft	333662	22.74	+20
	3.56	+08	Adipalm	293588	16.76	-02
	19.20	+55	Oracle	292029	12.92	-09
	29.67	-25	Dellinc	266584	40.40	-30

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



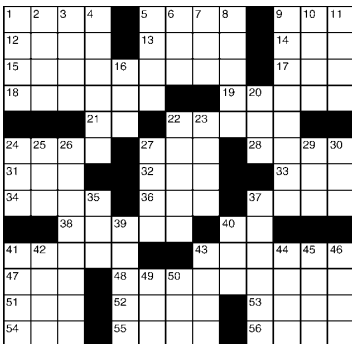
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Penicillin source
- 5 Send forth
- 9 Glutton
- 12 Duel tool
- 13 Cheney predecessor
- 14 Brewed beverage
- 15 Kansas symbol
- 17 Writer Fleming
- 18 Analyzes ore
- 19 Figure out who-done-it
- 21 Yours truly
- 22 Watt's power
- 24 Otherwise
- 27 "Humbly"
- 28 Mexican entree
- 31 Swamp
- 32 Had 28-Across
- 33 Diamond score
- 34 Implement
- 36 "See ya!"
- 37 Computer info unit
- 38 Silicon silver
- 40 On the other hand
- 41 Forbidden
- 43 7th rock from the sun?
- 47 Time period
- 48 Sellout extension
- 51 Zlich
- 52 Jamaican citrus
- 53 Bamako's country
- 54 Bando of baseball
- 55 Thaw
- 56 Pronto, on "Er"

Down

- 1 Small plateau
- 2 Comic penguin
- 3 Photo's choice
- 4 Slander
- 5 Hollywood clasher
- 6 Take blades to blades
- 7 Anger
- 8 Laconic
- 9 Long forward pass
- 10 Scandinavian name
- 11 Splicer's material
- 12 Caustic solution
- 20 Bran provider
- 22 Attendant of Dionysus
- 23 Quaker's address
- 24 Salamander
- 25 MGM mascot
- 26 Grow exponentially
- 27 Innocent one
- 29 Slash
- 30 Indivisible
- 35 7-faced doctor of film
- 37 Lullaby penner
- 39 Public meeting place
- 40 Mythical monster
- 41 Cash-drawer section
- 42 Met melody
- 43 Condonium, e.g.
- 44 "Cool!"
- 45 Bruins' home
- 46 Revue piece
- 49 Census datum
- 50 Misfortune

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-18

CRYPTOQUIP

F O R T S H V Y I C F O H
F R M M Y T H O U I C V R K O U O R W X
Y M J X Y J K X . O L X F S X O T L

H Q O U F O W Q X N H T Q Y N W
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PARASITE HAD STRANGE, ARGUABLE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, I RECKON IT'D BE A HERETICK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T

Young women: No hurry to date

Dear Abby: My 16-year-old daughter went through exactly what the 16-year-old girl, "Not Interested in North Carolina," is experiencing.

I encouraged my daughter to make a list of all the things she wanted to accomplish in the future, and tell me if having a boyfriend would help. After she read what she had written, she came to the conclusion that dating was out for now, and she's fine with it. Now, when she feels peer pressure at school, she looks at her list — which includes being a wonderful daughter, going to the college of her choice and traveling to certain foreign countries.

"Not Interested" should tape a similar list to her mirror or on the back of a door for easy reference.

— Encouraging Mom, Midland, Texas

Dear Mom: After "Not Interested's" letter was printed, I was

deluged with letters and e-mail from readers offering support. The number was overwhelming — too many to count.

Read on:

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I hope that girl doesn't succumb to peer pressure. It's far more important to know who you are to have a boyfriend. Having healthy relationships should be her focus, not fitting into what "society" tells her to do.

I am 24 and engaged to be married next summer. By waiting until I was ready, I knew exactly what kind of relationship I wanted and have found a wonderful man who shares my values.

— Happy I waited in Ohio
Dear Happy: I agree, it takes courage not to follow the crowd. Not one of those who wrote to support "Not Interested" was

sorry to have postponed dating.

Dear Abby: I was that girl, a "hard-core tomboy," which by the way, does not necessarily mean you're gay. (There are many very feminine lesbians.) I married at 22 and have been married for 21 years. After I had children, I realized that I am a lesbian — and I have recently come out to my husband, family and friends.

My advice to "Not Interested" is to take her time dating boys, have fun with her sports, etc., and remember — it's OK if she is gay. If she's struggling, she should seek a gay support group for teens.

— Loving Mom, Springfield, Mass.

Dear Loving Mom: That's good advice for teens who may need it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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CERDY

DUMON

CENNAD

ABBOOM

www.jumble.com

Answer:

TO

Yesterday's

Jumbles:

GROIN BILGE FAUCY NOZZLE

How she finished the laundry when the dryer broke — BY GOING ON LINE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Teen needs trip to gynecologist

Dear Annie: I am 17 years old and recently active. I use protection 100 percent of the time.

Annie, I think something is wrong "down there." Actually, I think it might be tinea cruris, which I know is athlete's foot spread through self-contact. Tinea cruris is supposedly easy to treat through over-the-counter topical medications.

I know I should see a gynecologist about this, but I don't want my parents to know I've lost my virginity. I can't think of another reason to ask my mom to take me to a gynecologist.

— Harrisburg, Pa.
Dear Harrisburg: *Tinea cruris* is a fungal infection like jock itch, but you could get it "down there" by wearing too-tight clothing, not washing after exercise or not drying your body sufficiently after showering. And it gives you the perfect excuse to ask your mother to take you to the gynecologist. Tell her you have some

Annie's Mailbox



kind of itching and you think it's time for a gynecologist to check you out. When you get to the doctor's office, ask your mom to wait outside for you, which will allow you to speak to the doctor privately.

We hope this will provide an opportunity for you to open up the lines of communication with at least one of your parents. While initially they may be disappointed to learn that you are sexually active, they will get past it.

Dear Annie: I find myself in what I would classify as a friendship with a co-worker. Actually, I am her assistant. "Myra" calls me at all hours of the day, including weekends and evenings. We discuss everything — her children's problems, her family and her fiancé.

Myra and her fiancé just finalized their list for their wedding attendees, and I find it a little depressing that, while I am good

enough to be a sounding board, apparently, I'm not good enough to be a bridesmaid. In fact, her attendants are mostly women who dislike the groom and have been quite vocal about it.

Myra has given me other duties at the wedding, but they are more like working assignments and don't involve any fun or interaction with the bridal party. Is it possible that what I assumed was a friendship is actually an extension of my job description?

— Feeling Down About Myself
Dear Feeling Down: Myra sees she expects you to listen to her complaints, provide support and advice, and take whatever assignments are given to you. Is this friendship? No. Although Myra no doubt appreciates the help you offer, it is not the same as a true friendship. Don't take it too hard, though. She probably thinks you're a terrific assistant.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creator Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



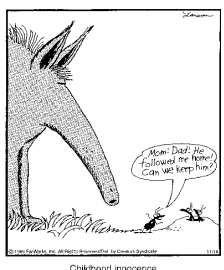
"I can't watch it now. I'm in bed, sound asleep."



Domis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 7 a.m.—NFL: NFL Films Game of the Week (1 did).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Soccer: Jamaica at U.S. men's World Cup qualifier (did).

AFN-Sports, 11:30 a.m.—NASCAR: Masters Cup, Darlington, 3 (did).

AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.—NASCAR: Trucks, Darlington, 20 (did).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—Ryder: Port B. R. L. (did).

AFN-Sports, 7:30 p.m.—Golf: World Golf Championships World Cup, 2nd round (1 did).

Friday

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—NBA: San Antonio at Philadelphia.

AFN-Atlantic, 1:30 a.m.—College football: Maryland at Virginia Tech.

AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m.—NBA: New York at Houston.

AFN-Sports, 7 a.m.—NFL: NFL Films Game of the Week (1 did).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Coaches vs. Cancer, semifinals, Memphis vs. St. Mary's, followed by Mississippi vs. vs. Syracuse at the Chesapeake World Cup.

AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.—Masters: Cup, Darlington, 4 (did).

AFN-Sports, 7:30 p.m.—Golf: World Golf Championships World Cup, 2nd round (1 did).

Saturday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Coaches vs. Cancer, third-place game, at Detroit.

AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.—College basketball: Coaches vs. Cancer, championship game, at Detroit.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: Memphis at Sacramento.

All times Central European Time; did indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some TV broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.mylife.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	1	0	0	.500	272	152
N.Y. Jets	6	0	0	.667	208	103
Buffalo	1	0	0	.500	156	106
Miami	1	0	0	.500	111	126

South

Indianapolis	3	0	0	.667	208	103
Houston	4	0	0	.667	145	123
Tennessee	4	0	0	.667	145	123
Jacksonville	1	0	0	.500	133	166

North

Pittsburgh	1	0	0	.500	121	137
Baltimore	3	0	0	.667	174	139
Cincinnati	3	0	0	.667	174	139
Cleveland	3	0	0	.667	174	139

West

Denver	3	0	0	.667	193	139
San Diego	3	0	0	.667	252	173
Kansas City	3	0	0	.667	208	103
Oakland	3	0	0	.667	165	247

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	3	0	0	.667	238	158
Washington	3	0	0	.667	152	152
Washington	3	0	0	.667	152	152

South

Atlanta	2	0	0	.500	178	104
New Orleans	4	0	0	.667	184	154
Tampa Bay	4	0	0	.667	184	154
Carolina	2	0	0	.500	161	121

North

Green Bay	4	0	0	.667	240	164
Minnesota	4	0	0	.667	240	164
Chicago	4	0	0	.667	240	164
Detroit	4	0	0	.667	240	164

West

St. Louis	4	0	0	.667	203	169
Seattle	4	0	0	.667	203	169
San Francisco	4	0	0	.667	203	169
San Francisco	4	0	0	.667	203	169

Sunday's games

Chicago 19, Tennessee 17
 Indianapolis 40, Houston 14
 St. Louis 23, Seattle 12
 Atlanta 24, New Orleans 17
 Carolina 23, Detroit 17
 New Orleans 27, Kansas City 20
 Pittsburgh 24, Cleveland 19
 Cincinnati 17, Washington 10
 Green Bay 24, Cleveland 19
 Green Bay 24, Minnesota 31
 Carolina 27, San Francisco 27
 New England 29, Buffalo 6
 Chicago 19, Tennessee 17

Monday's game

Philadelphia 49, Dallas 21
 Dallas at Chicago
 St. Louis at Buffalo
 Cincinnati at Chicago
 Denver at New Orleans
 N.Y. Jets at Cleveland
 Arizona at Carolina
 Tennessee at Minnesota
 Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
 San Francisco at Tampa Bay
 Miami at Seattle
 San Francisco at Oakland
 Atlanta at N.Y. Giants
 Washington at Philadelphia
 Green Bay at Houston

Tuesday, Nov. 22

New England at Kansas City

Thursday, Nov. 25

Indianapolis at Detroit

Friday, Nov. 26

Cleveland at Cincinnati

Baltimore at New England

Chicago at Dallas

San Diego at Kansas City

Tampa Bay at Carolina

Washington at Pittsburgh

New Orleans at Atlanta

Philadelphia at New York Giants

San Francisco at New York Jets

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AP Women's Top 25 schedule

(*must win Wednesday's game)

Wednesday's games

Expos make splash in free-agent market

Washington-bound team signs SS Guzman, 3B Castilla

By JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For a team without a budget, the Expos made a big early splash in free agency.

In their first major moves since announcing their relocation to Washington, the Expos on Tuesday agreed to terms with third baseman Vinny Castilla and shortstop Cristian Guzman.

Castilla will receive a \$6.2 million, two-year contract, while Guzman gets a \$16.8 million, four-year deal. Jim Bowden, hired as general manager on Nov. 2 to replace Omar Minaya, made the moves even though he hasn't been told how much money he can spend by the commissioner's office, which is operating the team until it is sold.

"We do not have a budget, but we're trying to send this franchise in the right direction," Bowden said. "We couldn't wait to make these moves. We wanted to make sure we had a shortstop with his prime years ahead of him... If you have to cut in other areas, you cut in other areas. But we feel those two players will fit into our budget."

Castilla, 37, hit .271 with 35 homers and an NL-leading 131 RBIs last season for Colorado, the best season for the two-time All-Star since he was with the Rockies in the 1990s. Castilla also has played for Atlanta, Houston and Tampa Bay, and has 303 career home runs.

Guzman, a 26-year-old switch-hitter, batted .274 for Minnesota last season with eight homers, 46 RBIs and 10 steals, and he led AL shortstops with a .983 fielding percentage.

"The nice thing about this is that two big holes on the left side of the infield are filled," manager Frank Robinson said. "It was nice to go out and fill those holes in a short period of time with quality players."

Castilla will receive \$3 million in 2005 and \$3.2 million in 2006. His agent, Eric Goldschmidt, said Castilla wanted to stay in the National League and avoid the top-heavy Central Division.

Goldschmidt also was impressed with Bowden's plans to turn the Expos around quickly.

"I know Jim is an aggressive guy," Goldschmidt said. "And I know he'll improve the club greatly."

Castilla's signing signals that the Expos

have given up on keeping their sole marquee free agent, third baseman Tony Batista, who hit 32 home runs with 110 RBIs last season.

"They made an offer to us that was not in our ballpark in length or in dollars," Bowden said.

Bowden got a similar response when pursuing Corey Koskie. Guzman's teammate with the Twins, so he worked the deal with Castilla, who declined a \$2.1 million mutual option with Colorado.

Castilla's signing also met with approval from Robinson, who wanted some veteran leadership for a young roster.

"That's very important for me," Robinson said. "You have to have a presence in the clubhouse. It just can't be management and the coaches."

The Twins declined a \$5.25 million option on Guzman's contract for 2005.

Baseball owners announced the Expos' move on Sept. 29 and are set to approve the relocation Thursday. The deal is subject to the District of Columbia government enacting funding by Dec. 31 for a new ballpark.

The Expos are owned by the other 29 teams, although baseball recently began the process of selling the team. The fran-



The Expos signed shortstop Cristian Guzman to a four-year, \$16.8 million contract Tuesday. The team plans to relocate to Washington, D.C., during the offseason.

chise is also expected to be renamed by the commissioner's office before the end of the year.

AP Sports Writer Ronald Blum in New York contributed to this report.

Sheffield says he was target of extortion plot

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — New York Yankees star Gary Sheffield and his wife said the targets of a blackmailing who claimed to have embarrassing sexual videotapes of her and a musician, the slugger said Tuesday.

"I will not be blackmailed. I will not have my family dragged through the mud and filth," Sheffield said in a statement read by his Chicago-based business agent, Rufus Williams.

The Yankees outfielder said his wife, DeLeon, had a long-term relationship with a well-known professional singer over 10 years ago.

Sheffield said he had known about the relationship, which came before the couple married. "I have not seen the alleged videotape, nor do I care to," Sheffield said in his statement.

"I love my wife and I vow again to stand by her through any trial or tribulation."

Sheffield said he hoped "the FBI and the federal authorities will prosecute this man to the full extent of the law."

Derrick Mosley, 38, a Chicago man who describes himself as a minister and has fashioned himself as a community activist, was charged Monday with operating a scheme to defraud for alleged attempts to extort money from a professional athlete, who was not named.

Mosley was already on probation for bank fraud and remained in custody Tuesday pending a Thursday bond hearing.

His attorney, Luis Galvan, had no immediate comment after his arrest.

Briefs

Free-agent catcher Varitek seeking no-trade clause

BOSTON — If the Boston Red Sox want to keep Jason Varitek, they might have to give him a no-trade clause.

"We have discussed multiple times how important that being able to stay in one place is," the free-agent catcher said Tuesday.

"This is your only shot to be able to do that."

After helping the Red Sox win the World Series last month, Varitek plans to meet with the team again this week. He reportedly has asked for a \$55 million, five-year contract with a no-trade clause. He has two daughters, ages 3 and 4, and stressed that he wants a deal that will provide stability for his family.

Varitek, who batted .296 with 18 homers and 73 RBIs last season, is considered the best of a mediocre crop of free-agent catchers.

Phillies sign RHP Lidle to \$6.3M, two-year deal

PHILADELPHIA — Right-hander Cory Lidle returned to the Philadelphia Phillies, agreeing Tuesday to a \$6.3 million, two-year contract.

The 32-year-old Lidle was 5-2 with a 3.90 ERA in 10 starts with the Phillies after he was acquired from Cincinnati in August. He finished 12-12 overall with a 4.90 ERA. Lidle will earn \$3 million in 2005 and \$3.3 million in 2006, plus performance bonuses.

Martinez meets with Steinbrenner

By RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pedro Martinez viewed the enemy Tuesday, meeting with Yankees owner George Steinbrenner at New York's spring training complex in Tampa, Fla.

Taking aim at the World Series champion Boston Red Sox, Steinbrenner talked at Legends Field with the free-agent right-hander.

Martinez was accompanied by agents Fernando Cuza and Pat Rooney.

New York vice presidents Mark Newman, Billy Connors and Damon Oppenheimer also attended.

"We had a good meeting," Steinbrenner said in a statement, without elaborating.

Said Cuza: "I think it's the same way. It was good."

Boston general manager Theo Epstein did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment. The Red Sox reportedly made a recent two-year offer to the ace.



Pedro Martinez

Yankees catcher Jorge Posada, who got into a shouting match with Martinez during the 2003 playoffs, said last week he would be happy to see him in pinstripes.

"I don't have anything against Pedro if he's my teammate. The guy is a winner. He knows how to pitch," Posada said.

In September, Martinez called the Yankees his "daddy" because of their success against him, sparking chants of "Who's your daddy?" when he pitched in New

York during this year's AL championship series.

Martinez was acquired by the Red Sox before the 1998 season and has gone 117-37 for Boston, winning the AL Cy Young Award in 1999 and 2000. After beating St. Louis in Game 3 of the World Series, he acknowledged it could have been his final appearance for Boston.

"If it is, I just want the fans and everybody to understand that I did whatever possible to represent the city well, the team and that my heart will always be with them," he said. "It's been a great ride. I hope everybody enjoyed it as much as I did. Even with the struggles that I've had up and down during the season, I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed every moment. I enjoyed my career in Boston."

Switching sides in the rivalry would not be unprecedented. After going 2-0 for the Yankees in the 1977 World Series, Mike Torrez went to the Red Sox — and gave up Bucky Dent's homer in the tiebreaking playoff for the 1978 AL East title.

Anaheim questions MLB on name change

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — City officials sent letters to the Anaheim Angels and Major League Baseball on Tuesday asking whether a possible name change has already been provisionally approved.

The letter from the City Council also seeks assurances from the team and league that the name will not be changed, and comes as the council again threatens to sue if the team changes its name from the Anaheim Angels to the Los Angeles Angels.

A name change would break the terms of the team's 33-year lease with the city, according to city officials.

"A deal is a deal. We continue to be strongly united on insisting that the Anaheim Angels comply with the terms of the lease," Mayor Curt Pringle said in a statement. "We hope that the Angels or Major League Baseball will end this speculative inquiry about the name change immediately."

The franchise began play as the Los Angeles Angels in 1961. It be-

came the California Angels upon moving to Anaheim in 1966, and has been the Anaheim Angels since 1997.

The possibility of a name change was first reported in July. Earlier this month, the Los Angeles Times quoted an unidentified high-ranking baseball official as saying Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig had given permission to Angels owner Arte Moreno to rename the team.

The Angels drew 3,375,671 last season — third-highest total in baseball behind the Yankees and Dodgers.

Roddick uses different strokes to beat Henman

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Andy Roddick didn't get to use his favorite weapons and tactics. It didn't matter.

Roddick, waited during the rain delay, then got key shots from his backhand and charged the net to hold off Tim Henman for a 7-5, 7-6 (6) victory Tuesday night in the first round of the ATP Masters Cup championship.

Roddick had one serve hit 142 mph, but he didn't win this one with his trademark blasts.

"Go figure," Roddick said. "I didn't feel I served that well, I didn't feel I hit my forehand that well but I moved and volleyed great so it was an atypical match for me."

The match started more than two hours late because of steady rain. After finally taking the court, both players battled on serve in the first set until Roddick finally broke Henman in the 12th game with a backhand winner down the line.

"I had to choose. I wanted Andy to beat me with his backhand so you have to give him credit, he came up with the big point," Henman said.

Roddick also charged the net more than usual, and Henman also gave him credit for that.

"He knows I want to establish myself at the net and it's harder for me to do that if he's already at the net," Henman said.

Roddick had to fight off two break points in the 11th game. He escaped the second break point with a serve winner, then held serve on Henman's forehand error.

The second set was just as tight, going down to the tiebreaker, when Henman took a 5-2 lead before Roddick rallied. He took a 6-5 lead after chasing down Henman's shot to the corner and hammering home a passing shot.

Henman saved the first match point with a return of serve winner, but his forehand error on the second match point ended it.

"I was kind of a few big points, so I can take a lot of positives out of this," Roddick said.



Andy Roddick, above, did not hammer many of his trademark hard serves in defeating Tim Henman 7-5, 7-6 (6) Tuesday in the ATP Masters Cup. The American used an array of passing shots and charged the net more than he normally does.

In earlier matches, third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt came back from a first-set lag to beat Carlos Moya 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4 and Marat Safin needed just one hour to beat Guillermo Coria 6-1, 6-4. Coria played his first match in more than three months after surgery on his right shoulder.

Davenport finishes season ranked No. 1

LOS ANGELES — Lindsay Davenport finished No. 1 in the world for the third time in the final WTA rankings of 2004.

Davenport won a WTA Tour-leading seven titles and had a 22-match winning streak during the summer hardcourt season. She also was No. 1 in 1998 and 2001.

She led second-ranked Amelie Mauresmo by 214 points. Mauresmo could have surpassed Davenport if the Frenchwoman had won the season-ending WTA Championships, but she lost in the semifinals.

Bryant's attorneys back in court for initial hearing in civil lawsuit

The Associated Press

DENVER — Three months after prosecutors dropped a sexual assault charge against Kobe Bryant, attorneys for the NBA star prepared to return to court for the first hearing in a civil lawsuit filed by his accuser.

Neither Bryant nor the 20-year-old woman was expected in federal court for Wednesday's hearing in the suit, which seeks unspecified damages for pain, ridicule and scorn the woman says she has suffered since her encounter with Bryant at a Vail-area resort in June 2003.

"Now it becomes a question of whether he or she are looking for some form of public vindication through a civil trial," said Denver attorney Craig Silverman.

The woman filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court on Aug. 10, about three weeks before she told prosecutors she no longer wanted to participate in the criminal case.

Wednesday's hearing is expected to be routine, devoted mostly to setting deadlines and scheduling the trial, but how the case is handled may have a bearing on a broad range of other actions.

"This is one of the first major pressure points in the case," Sil-

Sports briefs

verman said. "Pressure points can sometimes lead to settlements, but I would be surprised if this was announced."

John Clune, the woman's Colorado attorney, declined to comment on whether a settlement has been discussed.

L. Lin Wood, an Atlanta attorney who is also part of the woman's legal team, said he did not expect any surprises Wednesday.

Wood said he does expect Bryant's attorneys to bring up the fact that the accuser is considering filing another civil suit against Bryant in state court in Orange County, Calif., where the 26-year-old Los Angeles Lakers star lives.

California does not limit damages in a civil lawsuit. Colorado law, which will govern the lawsuit in Denver federal court, makes it difficult for a plaintiff to collect more than \$733,000.

Wood has said that's far less than fair compensation for the intense media scrutiny, death threats and loss of privacy the accuser has faced.

If a second lawsuit is filed in California, both cases could move forward simultaneously, Wood said. He said no decision has been made.

Bryant's attorney Pamela Mackey did not return a call.

Holyfield suspended by New York commission

NEW YORK — Evander Holyfield was suspended indefinitely by New York boxing officials in the wake of his loss Saturday night to journeyman Larry Donald.

Ron Stevens, chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, told the New York Daily News on Monday that Holyfield was suspended because "to my practiced mind, Holyfield shouldn't be fighting anyone. It's the responsibility of the state athletic commission to save a boxer from himself."

The 42-year-old former four-time heavyweight champion will have to seek medical clearance to fight again.

Holyfield said that the New York State Athletic Commission was involved in a "conspiracy" to get him out of boxing and that he would contest the ban.

Responding to Claret, Geiger Tressler defend OSU's football program

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger and coach Jim Tressler defended the school's football program Tuesday against charges that players were paid by boosters and coddled academically.

Geiger had harsh words for former tailback Maurice Clarett, and

for ESPN, which he said has led an attack against the school by providing a forum for Clarett's allegations.

An NCAA investigator was on campus Monday to look into accusations that Tressler helped Clarett get a loaner car and that he and other players were paid for bogus summer jobs and received improper help in class.

"I'm not concerned at all," Geiger said of the investigation. "I think Jim runs an honest program and tells me the truth."

Clarett, who made the charges on ESPN last week, led Ohio State to the national championship in 2002. Under the current circumstances, Geiger said, it did not believe Ohio State's title might be lost.

"Unless and until there would be found an institutional violation, I don't think it's in jeopardy," Geiger said.

Mark Shapiro, executive vice president of programming and production at ESPN, said Clarett's attacks on the network "are blatantly misguided."

Clarett was suspended after his freshman season for lying to investigators during another NCAA probe of allegations that he received improper benefits from a family friend. He then lost a court challenge of the NFL's rule preventing players out of school less than three years from being drafted.

Family members say Clarett is working out with a trainer at an undisclosed location in preparation for the NFL Draft.

Alan Milstein, Clarett's lawyer in the antitrust suit against the NFL, declined comment Tuesday. Clarett's mother did not return a message seeking comment.

Stoops links ESPN to 'agendas' among poll voters

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said Tuesday that college football poll voters should be aware that ESPN has a contract with the Southeastern Conference when they consider the cable sports network's analysis that Auburn should be the nation's No. 2 team.

Stoops mentioned ESPN's contract with the SEC during his weekly news conference, but stopped short of accusing the network of bias.

"I'm not saying that," Stoops said. "I'm saying I'm aware of what their contracts are with. Whether people are directed in

certain ways, I'm not going to say that. I think all the people ought to be aware who their contracts are with and what some of their agendas may be."

Stoops would not say whether he thought ESPN altered its analysis to favor SEC teams.

"That would be for everyone else to comment on, not me. I don't think that's appropriate," Stoops said. "I just understand TV and what happens with programs. Ratings matter. I don't know what to say about it."

Auburn, which had trailed Oklahoma in the AP media poll all season, moved even with the Sooners this week following a 24-6 win over Georgia, which had been No. 8. Oklahoma beat unranked Nebraska 30-3.

Oklahoma remained No. 2 in the coaches poll, although its lead was cut to two points over Auburn.

East Carolina's coach resigns

RALEIGH, N.C. — East Carolina football coach John Thompson resigned Wednesday but will finish the season, ending his first stint as a head coach after only two seasons.

Thompson is replacing Steve Logan, who was fired last week. The Pirates (2-7, 2-5 Conference USA) play Memphis on Saturday, and N.C. State on Nov. 27.

New Mexico coach gets extension through 2009

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — New Mexico signed coach Rocky Long to a contract extension through 2009 on Tuesday.

While details of the contract are still being worked out, Long is getting a pay raise of about \$100,000 a year in an annual salary package totaling \$425,000. Long's base salary, which is currently \$175,750, will increase to \$190,000.

New Mexico (6-4), second in the Mountain West Conference, hosts Wyoming in its regular-season finale Saturday. A victory would ensure New Mexico of a third straight bowl bid for the first time in school history.

Three finalists unveiled for next best WR award

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Two Big Ten receivers, Michigan's Braylon Edwards and Purdue's Taylor Stubblefield, and Ball State's Dante Ridgeway are finalists for the Biletnikoff Award, given to college football's best receiver.

Edwards, a senior, has 76 catches for 1,049 yards and 11 touchdowns during the seventh-ranked Wolverines game Saturday at Ohio State.

Stubblefield, also a senior, has caught 68 passes for 876 yards and 12 touchdowns for the Boilermakers, who play Iowa on Saturday in their season finale Saturday.

A junior, Ridgeway's 95 catches for 1,184 yards and seven touchdowns are the best numbers among the finalists. Ball State (2-8) closes its season Saturday at Central Michigan.



Freshman running back Michael Hart (20) is one of several weapons seventh-ranked Michigan has that has kept Ohio State coach Jim Tressell awake at night as the Buckeyes prepare for Saturday's big game.

Wolverines provide Buckeyes plenty of on-field concerns

BY RUSTY MILLER

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Inasmuch as Ohio State coach Jim Tressell, and not because of problems the football program is facing off the field.

Anxiety over his team's impending matchup with rival Michigan on Saturday is what is keeping Tressell awake lately.

Tressell is a micromanager, and Monday night while in bed he stared at the ceiling — convinced he wasn't fully prepared for the seventh-ranked Wolverines.

"My son called after I was asleep and woke me up," Tressell said Tuesday. "When your son calls, you like that because sons don't call as much as daughters. I fell back asleep and all of a sudden I found myself thinking, 'What if [the Wolverines] are in this defense? What if they're in this coverage? You do think about it constantly.'"

Ohio State's program is under siege by former tailback Maurice Clarett, who has said Tressell set

him up with cars and that he received money from boosters and improper help on his schoolwork while playing one season for the Buckeyes.

Tressell, who met with an NCAA investigator on Monday, is confident that once the investigation is complete, he, his staff and the university will be cleared of any wrongdoing. He said the investigation — and the swirling charges — must be kept separate from Saturday's game.

"Perhaps it's a distraction, but the last thing that it is an excuse," Tressell said. "We're playing the Ohio State-Michigan game this weekend, which is the greatest honor you can possibly have as a collegiate football player or coach. There's no way the distraction is any excuse for not playing the greatest football game we've played in 2004."

Michigan (9-1, 7-0) will be playing for an outright Big Ten title and a berth in the Rose Bowl when it faces the Buckeyes (6-4, 3-4), who will be backed by 105,000 fans at loud and rowdy Ohio Stadium.

The Wolverines have plenty of weapons in tailback Michael Hart and quarterback Chad Henne — both freshmen — and the stellar receiving corps of Braylon Edwards, Steve Breaston and Jason Avant.

Tressell, usually not much on hype, nonetheless went to extremes speaking about Michigan.

"As we approach Michigan, who I think is a fantastic football team, I think all you have to do is look at a lot of the statistics," Tressell said. "You can see that they do the things that you need to do to win."

"They have great players. They get after it. They play their best game of the year in the Ohio State-Michigan game. We need to play our best game of the year in the Ohio State-Michigan game."

Tressell spoke to his players on Monday, underscoring the importance of the rivalry.

"He basically gave us some of the history of the game and what it should mean to us, what it means to the staff, the city of Columbus, the state of Ohio," quarterback Troy Smith said. "This is one of the biggest games of the year. It's something that we as a team can't take lightly."

Other than several backup players with season-ending injuries, the Buckeyes will be at full strength when they meet their rivals for the 101st time. Defensive backs Nate Salley, Dante Whitner and Dustin Fox are expected to be back for the Buckeyes, along with former starting quarterback Justin Zwick.

Even though Ohio State — unlike the past two seasons — is not playing for a spot in a BCS game or for a Big Ten title, Tressell said there is still a lot to be gained.

"A 7-4 record would be a great year when you're sitting on 6-4," he said. "Would you have voted for it at the start of the year? No. But we're not at the start of the year and (7-4) would be extraordinary for us."

"Would 6-5 be a good year? The way you feel right this moment, it'd be a horrible year. But we've got that big one to play."

Terps traveling tough road to bowl

By David Ginsburg

The Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — After four months of practice, nine tough football games and all small measure of anguish, it all comes down to this for Maryland: The Terrapins must beat No. 15 Virginia Tech on the road Thursday night to keep their bowl hopes alive and avoid their third losing season under coach Ralph Friedgen.

Maryland's finale against Wake Forest will be virtually meaningless if the Terps can't defeat the Hokies, who have won five straight and stand alone atop the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"Coach has made it very clear to us that this is a two-game season," Maryland senior offensive tackle Lou Lombardo said Tuesday. "If we want to go to a bowl game we have to win these two games. It doesn't matter how we do it. We all want to be successful in every aspect of the game, but we just need to get it done."

Maryland went to a bowl game in each of Friedgen's three previous seasons as head coach, but that streak is in jeopardy. The Terrapins revived their hopes with a 20-17 upset of Florida State on Oct. 30, but a humbling 16-0 loss at Virginia one week later put Maryland on the verge of its first losing season since 2000.

Now, following a week off, the Terrapins (6-5, 2-4) said they feel refreshed and re-focused.

"I think the bye week has given us a chance to get away from football a little bit, so no one gets close to being burned out," Lombardo said. "It also gave us a chance to regroup, get ready emotionally and physically. I think the mood of the team is very positive."

Beating Virginia Tech (7-2, 4-1) would put a dent in the Hokies' bid to win the ACC title in their first season in the league, but the Terrapins couldn't care less about being a spoiler.

"I'm not really thinking about what it means for Virginia Tech," tight end Rob Abiamiri said. "I'm

Maryland at Virginia Tech
AFN-Atlantic, 1:30 a.m.

thinking more of what this means for us. Right now we want to win our last two games to become bowl eligible."

The Terrapins would have loved to avoid being placed in a must-win situation against one of the best teams in one of the most competitive conferences in the nation, but little went according to plan after a 55-21 win over Duke in September left Maryland with a 3-1 record.

After a week off, the Terps totaled only 17 points in consecutive losses to Georgia Tech, North Carolina State and Clemson. Along the way they had a quarterback controversy, which has since been resolved, although freshman Jordan Steffy again replaced starter Joel Statham in the fourth quarter at Virginia.

Statham now faces the prospect of trying to dent a defense that has permitted an average of 13.8 points per game and has allowed only three touchdown passes in the past eight games.

No matter. For Statham and the rest of the Terps, the game is irrelevant. All that matters is what happens Thursday night.

"It's a very, very important game," Friedgen said. "If we were to finish with a winning record, I'd feel like we had a successful season, given all the things that happened with injuries and youth. It's significant in the fact that it gives us a chance to go a bowl and also have a winning season."

A victory would also enable the Terrapins to prove they still have enough talent to play with anyone in the ACC.

"It's going to be big nationally televised game, and it's going to be great for us to not only try to get a bowl bid, but show the nation what we're all about," punter Adam Podleski said. "We all believe that we can do it. It's just a matter of going out there and playing our best game."

Coaches to keep votes secret

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The final coaches' vote before the Orange Bowl will stay a secret ballot.

Despite some calls to make their picks public, the 61 college football coaches who vote in the USA Today/ESPN poll decided not to release their choices.

Grant Teaff, executive director of the American Football Coaches Association, surveyed the 61 coaches earlier this month. He said it was a split opinion — about 31-30 against.

"There was not a clear majority," Teaff said Tuesday on a conference call.

Teaff, a longtime voter as coach at Baylor in the 1970s and

'80s, said he preferred to see the ballots released.

"It would be a positive thing for everybody, and I would lobby for it," he said. "I don't have a problem with it."

The coaches poll and The Associated Press media poll each count for one-third of a team's Bowl Championship Series ranking.

Ballots of AP voters are made available when warranted.

Teaff said all Division I coaches voted 88-29 after last season's bowl season to keep the ballots secret. The survey came after Southern California and LSU split the national championship.

Teaff said the issue would be considered again in January when the coaches meet.

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49ers' Erickson: Rattay 'will be our QB next year'

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Whether the tendons in Tim Rattay's forearm are torn, strained or just plain tired, it didn't explain his mental mistakes in the San Francisco 49ers' latest loss.

Rattay's ninth career start probably was his worst. He threw four interceptions and committed a key fumble, helping the Carolina Panthers recover from a 17-point deficit in their 37-27 victory.

But Rattay will be the starter for San Francisco (1-8) for the rest of the season — and next season too, according to coach Dennis Erickson, who gave a strong vote of confidence to his beleaguered quarterback after the Niners' second-half collapse in their fourth straight defeat.

When asked if the 49ers might want to play third-stringer Cody Pickett before deciding whether to use their presumably high draft pick on a quarterback in April, Erickson said: "There would be no reason for it that I could see. Tim Rattay is our quarterback and will be our quarterback next year."

Though his numbers are unimpressive, Rattay had been one of the 49ers' better players until Sunday, when he didn't exactly live up to his reputation as a smart quarterback. Rattay spent the night berating himself for his turnovers, which were turned into 17 points by the Panthers.

He misread simple coverages and got fooled into poor throws. He didn't show calm under constant pressure by the Panthers, who blitzed on 26 of the Niners' 35 plays in the second half.

And he didn't hold on to the ball when Will Witherspoon sacked him in San Francisco territory with six minutes to play. Mike Rucker recovered the fumble, which set up Carolina's go-ahead field goal.

"There's no excuse," Rattay said. "There's things that I can't do. I'm going to learn from it."

Erickson's confidence in Rattay is helped by the inconsistent play of backup Ken Dorsey. While Rattay sat out three games this season with injuries, Dorsey struggled to a 53.9 quarterback rating, throwing four interceptions and no touchdown passes.

Injury-riddled Bucs bring back Super Bowl MVP Jackson

TAMPA, Fla. — Desperate for help at safety, the injury-riddled Tampa Bay Buccaneers turned to a familiar face — former Super Bowl MVP Dexter Jackson.

He rejoined his old team Tuesday, five weeks after being let go by the Arizona Cardinals. To make room on the roster, running back Jamal White was released.



San Francisco quarterback Tim Rattay committed five turnovers in Sunday's 37-27 loss to Carolina.

Jackson signed a five-year, \$14 million contract with Arizona after intercepting two passes and being selected MVP of Tampa Bay's 48-21 rout of Oakland in the Super Bowl two seasons ago.

The 27-year-old safety had a career-high six interceptions last month after being sidelined since training camp with a back injury.

The Bucs need help in the secondary because of injuries to starting safeties Jermaine Phillips and Dwight Smith, whose emergence was one of the reasons Jackson was considered expendable after the 2002 season.

Phillips has a broken right forearm and will miss Sunday's game against San Francisco and possibly the remainder of the season. Smith is questionable to play against the 49ers after spraining his right knee last Sunday.

Browns waive RB James Jackson

CLEVELAND — The Browns waived running back James Jackson on Tuesday to make room for rookie Adimichio Echemandu on their roster.

Jackson ran for 554 yards and two touchdowns in 11 games as a rookie in 2001, but carried the ball just 12 times the following year after the arrival of William Green.

Jackson complained during this year's training camp about his diminished role behind Green and Lee Suggs and asked for a trade.

Trio lifted \$10,000 for pregame fight in Cleveland

NEW YORK — Linebacker Joey Porter of Pittsburgh and running back William Green of Cleveland were fined \$10,000 each by the NFL on Tuesday for their fight before Sunday's game in Cleveland.

The Browns' Terrell Smith was fined the same amount for getting involved in the altercation.

Porter and Green were both ejected after the fight, which occurred less than an hour before Pittsburgh's 24-10 victory.

Under Green, Cards show improved hand

BY MARK MASKE

The Washington Post

The first half of Dennis Green's first season as coach of the Arizona Cardinals was tumultuous. He reworked his offensive line almost constantly and continued to revamp his coaching staff. His first game without injured wide receiver Anquan Boldin, and lost five of his first seven games.

But Boldin is back in the lineup, and the Cardinals (4-5) suddenly look like a team that could be dangerous in the second half of the season. They have won two straight games, are 3-1 at home and are only a game behind the division-leading St. Louis Rams and Seattle Seahawks in the weak NFC West. Their latest victory was a 17-14, come-from-behind triumph Sunday over the fading New York Giants.

"We felt we beat a good team," Green said during a news conference on Monday. "And that means we're a step closer to being a good team. ... It's not all bad being 4-5 if you're playing a certain way when you're 4-5. In a turnaround program, we have our backs against the wall every week. That's a good place to be because it lets us show our mettle — what we are really made out of and what we are really seeing."

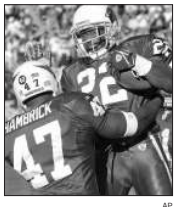
Green led the Minnesota Vikings to eight playoff appearances in 10 seasons as their coach between 1992 and 2001, but inherited a Cardinals team that had managed only one winning season in 19 years.

The transition was far from seamless. He released incumbent starting quarterback Jeff Blake in February and decided to go with third-year pro Josh McCown. He made 35-year-old Emmitt Smith, the NFL's career rushing leader, his starting tailback at the end of summer practices. He benched left tackle L.J. Shelton, moved Leonard Davis from guard to tackle and cut starting center Pete Kendall just before training camp.

When that didn't work out, Green benched right guard Cameron Spikes and right tackle Anthony Clement last month and replaced them with Jeremy Bridges and Shelton. He fired veteran offensive line coach Bob Whylie six games into the season and replaced him with rookie coach Everett Lindsay, after bringing in longtime associate Carl Hargrave as an offensive consultant in late September.

But now, with Boldin back from a knee injury to go with fellow wideouts Larry Fitzgerald and Bryant Johnson, Green has his three-receiver offense intact. And he has a defense that sacked Giants quarterback Kurt Warner six times and produced a victory Sunday despite gaining only 178 yards. Defensive end Bertrand Berry, signed as a free agent from Denver in the offseason, had four sacks Sunday and has nine sacks this season.

"It starts the first day, establishing what kind of program you're going to have, what your expectations are, how it could be really good, it could be fun, you could fit in, you could really enjoy yourself, but we're going to have it a certain way," Green said. "I think that we've got some guys who have really believed that."



Running backs Emmitt Smith (22) and Troy Hambrick (47) are trying to help the Cardinals post their second winning season since 1985. Arizona is 4-5.



Top Scores for Week 10

204	rrenison	Alpha Co 1-133rd INF
196	johann	31 MFG WS
194	Buckeye Packer	USNDC Oklahoma
194	Mickifiki	Camp Cooke
190	Joeyy188	Ramstein Air Base
190	AFERG_30	423RD
188	sparkjoseph2000	2-146 FA
186	Smokey Johnson	HQ USAF/E3Y3F
186	Doflan	CHPPM-Europe
186	IndyCop	Campbell Barracks



Best Overall Scores

giants#1	hbc 2/37 ar
STELLINGWOOD	MAG-12
Allison	18 CES
Jaguar One	DoDDS
Jack58	422 ABS RAF Croughton
arby	European Stars & Stripes
Joe Corleon	Misawa
Chickbowwow	726 AMS
SPIELMEISTER 04D	Hohenfels
NEOBIT	USJF

See websites for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

By threes, Sonics get to seven

Seattle uses long jumpers, extend streak

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Wide open or contested, the Seattle SuperSonics hit three-pointers from all over the court.

Ray Allen scored a season-high 37 points, Rashard Lewis had 21 and Vladimir Radmanovic added 20, leading Seattle to its seventh straight victory, 103-95 over the Philadelphia 76ers on Tuesday night.

The Sonics are off to their best start since opening 10-0 in 1993.

They haven't lost since dropping their opener to the Los Angeles Clippers by 30 points after going 2-6 in exhibition games.

"Everybody stepped up and played their part," Allen said. "We had it working on all cylinders."

Allen Iverson scored 26 and Kyle Korver had 14 for the Sixers, who had won three in a row. Seattle, which came in with an NBA-best 58 three-pointers, shot 18-39 from beyond the arc, tying a team record for threes.

Allen finished 12-of-14 from the line, including 7-for-12 on three-pointers.

Radmanovic went 6-for-11 on threes.

Philadelphia needed 19 points off the bench for Seattle, which got 41 points from its reserves.

"This team is playing the game the right way," Sonics coach Nate McMillan said. "We are getting play from our first and second units. We're getting solid play from 10 guys."

Willie Green put Philadelphia

back 22-41 in the third quarter with a dunk off a behind-the-back pass from Iverson that went around Allen. But the Sonics answered with 13 straight points in the quarter, taking a 77-72 lead on consecutive three-pointers by Lewis.

Another three by Allen capped an 18-0 run, giving the Sonics an 82-72 lead in the fourth. Overall, the Sixers went 6-30 without scor-



Philadelphia 76ers' John Salmons, right, reaches in and fouls Super-Sonics guard Ray Allen while trying to keep Allen from the basket.

ing before Iverson made a driving layup to cut it to 82-74.

"They have to have too much firepower from the three-point line," Sixers coach Jim O'Brien said. "They generally have four great shooters at once and they use the pick-and-roll well."

After a three-point play by Samuel Dalembert cut the deficit to 92-85, Radmanovic's sixth three gave the Sonics a 10-point lead with 4:32 left. The Sixers didn't get closer than nine until the final seconds.

Timberwolves 108, Heat 97: Kevin Garnett had 25 points, 21 rebounds and eight assists and surpassed 14,000 career points in Minnesota's home victory.

Wally Szczerbiak added 21 points and Sam Cassell 19 for the Timberwolves.

Dwayne Wade, after missing the last two games with a sprained left ankle, scored 20 of his 25 points in the first half for Miami, which got 20 points and 15 rebounds from Shaquille O'Neal.

Jazz 107, Bobcats 105: Raja Bell made a three-pointer with 18 seconds left and hit two clutch free throws to help Utah (6-1) overcome a 22-point deficit at Charlotte.

Bell's three-pointer cut Charlotte's lead to 105-104, then he gave the Jazz their first lead on two foul shots with 15.5 seconds to go. After the clock failed to

start twice, Gerald Wallace missed a jumper for the expansion Bobcats. Carlos Boozer made a free throw to wrap it up.

Hawks 88, Rockets 94: Antonio Walker had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and the Hawks rallied from 11 points down in the final 6:11 at home.

Yao Ming, who had 27 points and 11 rebounds, ended Houston's 0-for-10 skid from the field with a 5-footer with 18 seconds remaining, cutting Atlanta's lead to 86-84. But Jon Barry made two free throws to seal it for the Hawks.

Spurs 99, Knicks 81: At San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 20 points, 10 rebounds, and Tony Parker added 18 points and a season-high nine assists for the Spurs (6-1).

Kings 113, Bulls 106: Peja Stojakovic scored 29 points, Mike Bibby added 27, and the Kings kept Chicago (0-5) winless.

Bobby Jackson scored 20 and Chris Webber had 19 points, 13 rebounds and six assists for Sacramento, which remained unbeaten at home with its 11th straight win over the Bulls since Michael Jordan's second retirement in 1998.

Clippers 101, Raptors 89: Marko Jaric had 23 points, eight assists and seven rebounds to lead the Clippers over visiting Toronto, which has lost three straight and four of five.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Boston	3	0	.600
Philadelphia	4	4	.500
Toronto	4	5	.450
New York	4	3	.571
New Jersey	5	2	.706

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Miami	5	3	.625
Orlando	4	2	.667
Washington	3	4	.429
Atlanta	2	5	.286
Charlotte	5	5	.500

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Indiana	5	2	.714
Milwaukee	4	4	.500
Cleveland	4	5	.450
Chicago	0	5	.000

Western Conference			
Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	6	1	.857
Dallas	5	2	.714
Memphis	4	4	.500
New Orleans	2	5	.286

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Seattle	6	1	.857
Utah	4	1	.667
Portland	3	3	.500
Denver	2	5	.286

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	2	4	.333
L.A. Clippers	3	2	.600
L.A. Lakers	4	2	.667
Sacramento	4	5	.450
Golden State	5	1	.833

Tuesday's games			
Seattle 103, Philadelphia 95	104	97	
Utah 107, Charlotte 95	108	97	
Minnesota 108, Miami 97	108	97	
San Antonio 99, New York 81	99	81	
Sacramento 113, Chicago 106	113	106	
L.A. Clippers 101, Toronto 89	101	89	

Wednesday's games			
Atlanta at Orlando			
Atlanta at Indiana			
Boston at Washington			
Minnesota at Detroit			
Seattle at New Orleans			
Phoenix at New Orleans			
Toronto at Denver			
Memphis at Portland			
Chicago at Golden State			

Thursday's games			
Cleveland at Charlotte			
San Antonio at Philadelphia			
Utah at Houston			
Seattle at Atlanta			
Atlanta at Miami			
Chicago at Denver			
Indiana at Detroit			
New York at Dallas			
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix			
Memphis at Sacramento			

Friday's games			
San Antonio at Houston			
Seattle at Atlanta			
Atlanta at Miami			
Chicago at Denver			
Indiana at Detroit			
New York at Dallas			
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix			
Memphis at Sacramento			

Saturday's games			
San Antonio at Houston			
Seattle at Atlanta			
Atlanta at Miami			
Chicago at Denver			
Indiana at Detroit			
New York at Dallas			
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix			
Memphis at Sacramento			

Sunday's games			
San Antonio at Houston			
Seattle at Atlanta			
Atlanta at Miami			
Chicago at Denver			
Indiana at Detroit			
New York at Dallas			
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix			
Memphis at Sacramento			

Monday's games			
San Antonio at Houston			
Seattle at Atlanta			
Atlanta at Miami			
Chicago at Denver			
Indiana at Detroit			
New York at Dallas			
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix			
Memphis at Sacramento			

Tuesday's games			
San Antonio at Houston			
Seattle at Atlanta			
Atlanta at Miami			
Chicago at Denver			
Indiana at Detroit			
New York at Dallas			
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix			
Memphis at Sacramento			

Wednesday's games			
San Antonio at Houston			
Seattle at Atlanta			
Atlanta at Miami			
Chicago at Denver			
Indiana at Detroit			
New York at Dallas			
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix			
Memphis at Sacramento			

Thursday's games			
San Antonio at Houston			
Seattle at Atlanta			
Atlanta at Miami			
Chicago at Denver			
Indiana at Detroit			
New York at Dallas			
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix			
Memphis at Sacramento			

Friday's games			
San Antonio at Houston			
Seattle at Atlanta			
Atlanta at Miami			
Chicago at Denver			
Indiana at Detroit			
New York at Dallas			
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix			
Memphis at Sacramento			

Saturday's games			
San Antonio at Houston			
Seattle at Atlanta			
Atlanta at Miami			
Chicago at Denver			
Indiana at Detroit			
New York at Dallas			
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix			
Memphis at Sacramento			

Houston			
22	24	25	26
27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31

Atlanta			
27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31

Miami			
27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
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24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31

Minnesota			
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20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31

San Antonio			
27	28	29	30
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4	5	6	7
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20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31

Dallas			
27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
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20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31

Phoenix			
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4	5	6	7
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12	13	14	15
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24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31

Portland			
27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31

Seattle			
27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
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16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31

Denver			
27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
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12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31

Chicago			
27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31

(Harris 6). Total fouls—Ph
A—20,238 (19,200).

Kings 113, B

CHICAGO — Nocioni 4-9
1-2 13, Curry 6-16 2-4 14, P
24, Hinrich 3-10 0-0 8, Davi

Arizona slips in second half, still wins in NIT

BY BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Arizona Wildcats won their 13th consecutive Preseason NIT game Tuesday night — but this was no spectacular debut for a team that has its sights on the Final Four.

Mustafa Shakur scored 23 points and Ivan Radenovic 20 — both career highs — in the 10th-ranked Wildcats' often-sloppy 80-69 victory over San Diego.

Salim Stoudamire also scored 20 for the Wildcats, who are 13-1 overall in the Preseason NIT. Arizona won the tournament in its last three appearances — 1990, 1995, 1999.

The Wildcats knew that they didn't play up to their potential.

"The first half was excellent. The second half was disgusting," Stoudamire said. "I wanted to win, and I wanted to win by a lot. I thought we should have won by 40."

The Wildcats led 41-23 at halftime.

Arizona hosts Wright State in the second round Thursday night. The winner goes to the semifinals in New York next week.

Brice Voungang, San Diego's 6-foot-8, 250-pound center with a soft shooting touch, matched his career best with 28 points and had 11 rebounds for the Toreros. Brandon Gay added 17 points.

"He had a great game," Toreros coach Brad Holland said of Voungang. "He was all-conference last season, and he's taking the pressure well. He did a great job on Channing Frye. We didn't have to double him. He did a good job one-on-one with him."

Shakur, the team's sophomore playmaker who averaged just six shots a game last season, was 7-for-12 in Arizona's season opener.

Radenovic, in his second season with the

Wildcats from Serbia and Montenegro, was 8-for-17 and grabbed 10 rebounds.

San Diego, coming off a 4-26 season and 1-13 in the West Coast Conference, trailed only 14-10 after Voungang's 10-footer with 11:42 to play in the half. But Shakur banked in a three-pointer to start at 16-0 Arizona run that made it 30-12 on Radenovic's fastbreak layup with 5:15 left in the half.

Shakur scored eight, Stoudamire five and Radenovic three during the surge.

From that point on, the outmanned Toreros outscored Arizona 57-50.

"One of the things I was a little disappointed in was we did not do a good job of really closing them out," said coach Lute Olson, beginning his 22nd season at Arizona. "We just didn't show that killer instinct that we need to have."

But Shakur and Radenovic, with late help from Stoudamire, overcame Arizona's poor shooting to lead the Wildcats to victory.

"We did a good job at times, but we let up in the end. We have to work on that," Shakur said.

Olson praised Voungang.

"I'm not sure we're going to play anybody tougher than he is," Olson said, "because if you forced him to step out and get the ball, which was our first intent, the guy has got the softest touch off the glass that I've seen in a long time. He was a load."

The Wildcats had 10 turnovers in the first half and San Diego 12. Shakur scored 12, and Stoudamire and Radenovic 10 apiece in the first 10 minutes.

Hassan Adams, who led Arizona in scoring last season at 17.3 points per game, was 0-for-3 shooting and committed three turnovers in a scoreless first half. He wound up 3-for-12 for six points.



Arizona's Mustafa Shakur, right, dribbles around the pressing defense of San Diego's Corey Belser during a Preseason NIT game on Tuesday. Shakur scored 23 points.

Brett Melton's three-pointer started a 9-0 run that cut Arizona's lead to 59-47 on Avi Fogel's driving layup with 9:25 left.

The teams traded baskets, then Radenovic

scored inside on a pass from Frye. Stoudamire sank an 18-footer and a 14-foot floater from the baseline and Arizona was up 67-49 with five minutes to go.



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SPORTS



Expos sign shortstop Guzman,
3B Castilla in preparation for
move to Washington, Page 25

Suns shine behind Nash

Ex-Mav dishes out 18 assists in return to Dallas

BY JAIME ARON

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Steve Nash made the strange walk to the visitors' locker room, relieved at having his first game against the Dallas Mavericks out of the way.

And thrilled with how it turned out.

Nash scored 17 points and had 18 assists, many setting up Amare Stoudemire's 34 points, leading the Phoenix Suns past the Dallas Mavericks 107-101 on Tuesday night.

"I can't think of a more emotional game that I've had than this one," Nash said. "I didn't have any tears, but I was definitely nervous. I think it's just natural. There were so many memories here."

Nash's assists were the most this season in the NBA, topping the 17 he had in an overtime loss at Cleveland last Wednesday. It also was one shy of his career best. The only downer was that he had the wrong kind of triple-double — points, assists and turnovers. He gave the ball away 10 times, four in the third quarter, after doing so just 18 times in the first six games this season.

"They're trying to get used to me and I'm trying to get used to them — as you can see by my 10 turnovers," Nash said.

Although Nash broke into the league with Phoenix, he's best known for the last six years in Dallas.

With him pushing the offense, the Mavs became one of the NBA's top teams and he became one of the most popular players in town. He was a free agent last summer and wanted to stay, but couldn't resist when Phoenix offered \$60 million guaranteed in July.

The locals didn't hold a grudge. "Thanks Steve" and "Welcome Back Nash" were among the signs waived by fans and there were plenty of kids wearing his No. 13 Dallas jerseys, including one youngster holding a poster that said, "Nash has been to my house."

"It's overwhelming to see that kind of support," Nash said.

After a nice ovation during pregame introductions, Nash made his way along the Dallas bench shaking hands, slapping backs and embracing coaches Don Nelson and Del Harris and former teammate Michael Finley.



Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash, left, looks to pass the ball over Dallas Mavericks guard Marquis Daniels on Tuesday in Dallas. Nash, who spent the past six seasons with the Mavericks, scored 17 points for the Suns.

Then Nash made himself right at home, scoring or assisting on 12 of Phoenix's first 17 baskets. He opened the second half with a three-pointer and another jumper and soon after the Suns were up by 15.

But the Mavericks rallied to tie

and even led by five early in the fourth quarter, despite losing center Erick Dampier (strained hip) and backup point guard Jason Terry (sprained ankle) in the first half and being without Dirk Nowitzki for about 10 crucial minutes after he picked up his fifth foul with 3:39 left in the third quarter.

Nowitzki tied it at 93 with 4:28 left, then Stoudemire put Phoenix up for good with a driving layup. Nash fed Shawn Marion for a jumper that stretched the lead and the Suns were off on a 10-2 run that sealed the victory.

SEE NASH ON PAGE 30



**Streking Sonics
fired up after
sinking Sixers with
three-point attack**

Page 30



**Texans searching
for answers after
dispiriting rout**

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**Ohio State coach
defends school,
program against
charges made
by ex-star Clarett**

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No. 10 Arizona hardly spectacular in Preseason NIT win

Page 31